

## **Scoulton Parish Council 'Scoulton Grove' Management Policy Document**

### **Foreword**

This document is intended to guide Scoulton Parish Councillors, inform residents and provide engagement with the tree warden. This policy applies only to 'Scoulton Grove' land as registered with the Land Registry to Scoulton Parish Council and is not applicable beyond this, such as private and highways land. This land is managed by the group 'Scoulton Green Space' (SGS).

This document defines and makes clear the duties and responsibilities of the parish council as landlord. It is the and how it manages the land including the trees and ponds within its boundaries. This also includes a risk assessment setting out the key hazards and the Councils risk mitigation process.

### **Background Information**

Trees and hedgerows have been lost over recent years due to a variety of causes including disease, agricultural intensification and development. SGS are a group of volunteers including Parish Councillors and the Tree Warden to help protect what we have. Our Tree Warden is not necessarily a qualified tree specialist but possesses an understanding of trees and has local knowledge.

### **Scoulton Parish Council 'Scoulton Green Space' (SGS) Management Policy Document – Risk Assessment**

The SGS Risk Assessment is formulated in accordance with HSE Guidance INDG 163 'Five Steps to Risk Assessment and guidance from Aviva Insurance Company.

The purpose of the document is to:

- Assess the risks relating to trees and the pond
- Provide a formal way for the Parish Council to identify and be notified of dangerous trees within their boundary
- Ensure the Council has sufficient information to make decisions on tree management
- Ensure that tree damage can be detected in a reasonable time

- Ensure that dangerous trees are properly dealt with and appropriate action taken
- Ensure that the risks to people and animals due to open water are limited
- Ensure that unauthorised vehicles do not enter the land
- Ensure that visitors are kept safe during their time at SGS

Control measures are then applied to the significant risks where the remaining residual risks are re-scored to ensure all risks are suitably managed and controlled.

The current tree warden for Scoulton Parish Council is: Colin Spinks

	Hazardous Event	Consequence	Effectuated	Management controls	Residual risk and further measures
1	Identify trees that need to be managed	Unidentified dangerous trees  Incorrect inspections taking place	Public Property	<p>The Parish Council will engage a Tree Warden whose duties are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with the Parish Council to encourage a respect for trees and hedges in their community.</li> <li>• Undertake a regular survey of all trees and identify those trees that present the greatest risk.</li> <li>• The Warden does not necessarily need to be a member of Parish Council nor expected to be experts but must have a genuine love and respect for trees and the natural environment.</li> <li>• Work in conjunction with the Breckland Council appointed arboricultural officer who is more experienced and responsible for the upkeep of Tree Preservation Orders.</li> <li>• Attend meetings and receives support and advice from our qualified District Council Tree Arboriculturalist where possible.</li> <li>• Keep suitable and sufficient records of his inspections and report regularly to the Council about the condition of the trees and any recommendations as to what action should be taken to keep them in good order.</li> </ul>	Tolerable No Further Action needed

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If necessary, arrange a detailed inspection to be carried out by a tree specialist. As the area has no public footpaths it is not considered necessary to have a formal inspection programme by an arboriculturalist.</li> </ul>	
2	Manage trees that are vulnerable	<p>Fail to prevent personal injury through trips and falls on footways disturbed by tree roots</p> <p>Failure of reducing the risk of property damage from falling trees or subsidence</p> <p>Fail to prevent vehicle damage and personal injury from obscured sightlines on the highway</p>	Public Property	<p>Implement a suitable strategy and action plan which may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zoning and prioritising of vulnerable trees</li> <li>Enhanced Inspection such as enabling people to report damage to trees, such as vehicle collisions, and to trigger checks following potentially damaging activities such as work by the utilities in the vicinity of trees or severe gales</li> <li>Employment of a qualified Arboriculturalist</li> <li>Modifying usage e.g. by re-routing paths or recreational facilities</li> <li>Removing seating or play equipment that might encourage people to linger under trees</li> <li>Changing mowing practice, under planting with shrubs or leaving brushwood or logs under/around trees to keep people at a safe distance</li> <li>Fencing or barriers to prevent people accessing the area close to the tree/under the canopy</li> <li>Bracing or propping</li> <li>Felling</li> <li>Put in place monitoring to ensure that the arrangements are implemented in practice</li> </ul>	Tolerable No Further Action needed
3	Identify environmental risks with the pond	Failure to ensure the area is safe	Public	<p><u>Access to the area</u> Ensure that there is no vehicular access to the area of the pond No play area nearby to encourage children to play near the water A clear pedestrian footway ensures people do not go near the pond.</p>	Tolerable No Further Action needed

				<p><u>Access to the water</u> The pond has open unrestricted access. There are no man-made barriers, but the gradient of the bank is very shallow and the water shallow.</p> <p><u>Conditions in the pond</u> The water is not deep, and during the summer sometimes has no water. There is a pipe leading into the pond to allow water to drain into the pond from the adjacent highway. There is no current and the clarity of water is consistent of that of a natural pond There is no lining of the pond.</p> <p><u>Signage or rescue equipment</u> There is no rescue equipment. No warning signs are displayed. No record of any accident is known.</p>	
4	Identify hazards with traffic management	Vehicles damage the site or collide with visitors	Public Property	<p>There is limited vehicular access for both Anglian Water and households who border the site. A barrier and fencing prevents unauthorised vehicles accessing the site.</p> <p><u>Anglian Water Sewage Works</u> There is an Anglian Sewage Works on the site. It is maintained by Anglian Water and is securely fenced and locked, with warning signs. Vehicles accessing the plant do so via clearly defined tracks across the land.</p>	Tolerable No Further Action needed
5	Identify hazards to pedestrians in the area	<p>People injure themselves walking in the area.</p> <p>People accidentally enter the area</p>	Public	<p>The area is rough ground with mature trees. Paths are mown through the area for people to use, however people are free to walk across the ground. There are no public footpaths within the ground. The area is surrounded by hedging. The neighbouring fields are all privately owned. The only way to access the area is by the entrance track.</p>	Tolerable No Further Action needed