WPC Tree and plant policy

INTRODUCTION

Why are trees important?

- They make the village more attractive and desirable
- Absorb air pollution and noise
- Produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide
- Intercept rainfall and reduce run off and flooding
- Provide shade and shelter for people and animals
- Create a variety of habitats for wildlife
- Help to emphasise the changing seasons
- Produce fruits, nuts and seeds
- Produce firewood at the end of their lives
- Help to combat climate change by sequestering CO2
- Are a source of inspiration and have psychological health benefits.

PROPOSAL

This council

- accepts that there is an urgent need to plant more trees and create a wider range of wildlife habitats.
- agrees to do all that it can to encourage tree planting and wild flower planting within the parish, on its own land [where possible] and elsewhere.
- agrees the following recommendations for action:

    1. Planning conditions to reduce tree removal and encourage new planting or replacement planting, are to be actively discussed for all relevant planning applications under consideration by the council
    2. Where the planting of trees, shrubs or hedges are a condition of any planning consent the parish council will be proactive in ensuring that they are actually planted and that they survive, or if lost, are replaced by the developer. Where possible three-year maintenance schedules should be imposed and monitored.
    3. The parish council will take an active role in finding suitable sites for the planting of new trees, shrubs, hedgerows and wild flowers
    4. Appointment of a dedicated tree warden who may or may not, be a member of the parish council
    5. Ensure proper maintenance of trees on parish council land

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Existing / proposed, Community Planting:

- Mildred road verges
- East Mead Field Hedges
- 5 Raised wildflower beds creating diversity of habitat

Adopted at the 9th August 2019 PCM

Reviewed, revised and adopted July 8th, 2022, PCM

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