

Tattenhall Parish Council

Maintenance Schedule:

- Barnfields & Glebe Meadow
- The Spinney
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Orchard

The following document is a draft schedule for the proposed maintenance of the above areas and is based on the principle that these areas are to be maintained as natural areas rather than as mown lawns or formal gardens.

This document will be presented to the Parish Council at the April meeting and forwarded to CW&C for comment.

It should be noted that the document is intended to be a living document which will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Work will need to be undertaken to completed risk assessments of work identified.

Objectives:

- To develop a maintenance schedule which will allow areas to develop in natural way to encourage biodiversity.
- Use of chemical herbicides and pesticides to be avoided.
- To develop areas to encourage public access.
- To involve volunteers in projects and maintenance of these areas – possibly identify Volunteer Rangers to monitor sites around village.

Barnfields & Glebe Meadow

The Parish Council recognises that Glebe Meadow is designated as Local Wildlife Site in the CW&C Local Plan as an unimproved grassland.

It is recommended that an ecological survey is undertaken on Glebe Meadow before commencement of public access and the survey is repeated again in 3 years.

Fields to be cut and cuttings removed (baled) June/July and September to reflect hay mowing.

Small strips/islands of grass to be retained and moved around fields annually.

Path (meandering) to be mown through Glebe Meadow and moved annually to allow public access. Frequency of cutting to be determined by use of path and its visibility.

Glebe Meadow to be monitored weekly for damage, litter and dog fouling.

Trees to be subject to inspection by qualified person/company and works to be undertaken as required. When possible, branches to be retained on site around base of trees to create wildlife habitats.

The Spinney

Trees to be subject to inspection by qualified person/company and works to be undertaken as required.

Approx. 1 m strip to be mown along edge of paths to prevent them becoming overgrown. Frequency to be determined.

Growth of newly planted trees, bulbs etc to be monitored possible working group activities arranged to undertake additional planting in future years.

Debris in Mill brook to be monitored and annual clearing to take place with volunteers over summer months when water level is reduced. (Large blockages when identified to be removed immediately).

It is noted an ecological survey of the Spinney was undertaken in 2020, this will be repeated in 2024.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Orchard

It is noted The Orchard was planted February 2022 and may require additional strimming of grass around trees during first 12 months.

Possible mowing of path around trees to be considered depending on grass growth and use of orchard area (will also contribute to creating variation in grass heights etc.)

Mowing of Orchard and removal of grass to take place June/July and September to reflect hay mowing.

Trees to be shaped on 2nd, 3rd and 4th years to enable to sizes to be kept manageable so that fruit can be picked.

Light pruning to take place of trees as required.

Wood to be retained on site to create natural habitat.

Trees to be monitored for signs of bacterial canker where possible this should be controlled by pruning in July or August where infected areas should be cut back to healthy wood and painted with wound paint to protect from further infections. Infected wood should be taken to landfill or if appropriate burnt.

Orchard to be monitored for codling moth and action to be agreed should these become an issue.

To be considered:

- Clearing of area for wildflower seeding to be undertaken possibly using CW&C developed Cheshire Mix. (May require soil testing).
- Installing birdboxes and habitats for insects.
- Install seating for residents to enjoy orchard.

Other Matters

Signage

It is intended that all the above areas will have signage in place identifying the areas, signs have been ordered for The Spinney, once received these will be reviewed and if appropriate matching signs ordered for the other area.