



Hordle Parish Council – Undergrowth Clearance Policy

Agreed 19.9.23

1. Purpose

The Parish Council owns extensive open space which has boundaries with countless private properties. The Parish Office receives frequent requests from residents of these properties for the PC to cut back protruding brambles and other undergrowth which can encroach onto their property through fences. Not all properties request this but the Groundsman spends considerable hours on those that do request this.

With regard to ditches, the Parish Council clears ditches annually in the autumn. Householders have Riparian responsibilities for ditches which are adjacent to their land. The Parish Council will clear ditches up to their boundary on an annual basis in the autumn.

With regard to tree encroachment (overhanging branches etc), it is the householder's right to cut back any branches to the boundary and the office state this to any enquiries of this nature.

Residents have purchased/ rented their accommodation knowing public open space, a ditch or a tree is next door to them.

2. Responsibilities

Hordle Parish Council will not cut back undergrowth or branches on its land which overhang or encroach neighbouring properties. This work can be done by the residents or their contractors and the Parish Council is not responsible for any costs incurred.

Residents should inform the Parish Council of any major work and the necessary permissions from the Parish Council and NFDC/ NPA should be obtained, such as Tree Work Orders.

Householders living adjacent to a ditch have riparian responsibilities to keep the ditch clear. The Parish Council will maintain its side of the ditch on an annual basis in the autumn.