

Office Tel: 01643 863350

clerk@porlockparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.porlockparishcouncil.gov.uk

PORLOCK



Parish Room
Old School Centre
West End
PORLOCK
Somerset TA24 8NP

Parish Council

Grounds Maintenance Policy

Part 1

Porlock Parish Council is responsible for various aspects of Grounds Maintenance within the Parish of Porlock, including land owned by PPC, land leased by PPC, land PPC is responsible for, such as the closed Churchyard at St. Dubricius, and land owned by Somerset County where certain maintenance has been agreed having been devolved in 2014.

Appropriate Grounds maintenance is necessary to protect structures maintained by PPC from damage, to prevent injuries to members of the public and to preserve the aesthetic character of the Parish of Porlock.

Porlock Parish Council contracts out the Grounds Maintenance, or supervises volunteers where possible. The Parish Council is responsible for ensuring health and safety procedures are followed and all necessary public liability insurance is in place.

Porlock Parish Council also has a statutory duty to have regard to their impact on biodiversity. With this in mind PPC will:

- 1.1. Wherever possible and practical, keep the use of herbicides to a minimum by considering other appropriate methods that are more environmentally friendly.
- 1.2. Encourage biodiversity by careful management of grass cutting, hedge trimming and development of wildlife friendly areas.
- 1.3. Encourage the use of more eco-friendly materials to be used as planters, fencing, etc.

Part 2 : Porlock Parish Council will ensure that:

The use of herbicides is kept to a minimum. Herbicides may need to be used when other methods could cause

damage to structures where plants are damaging walls or where kerbs meet roads or walls meet hard surfaces, for instance.

In consultation with residents, land owners and the Grounds Maintenance contractor, the frequency of grass cutting, where appropriate, will be decreased to encourage wild flowers to flourish through a managed process.

The cutting of hedges will be avoided during the months of March to August wherever possible and practical, in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

Trees within the Conservation areas of Porlock Parish and those with Tree Preservation Orders will be managed in accordance with ENPA guidelines. Trees outside of the Conservation areas of Porlock Parish that are of special importance will be managed likewise.

Works undertaken are done so by a fully qualified contractor who holds the necessary certificates and public liability insurance to carry out the work.

Consideration of the visual impact of any works carried out will be undertaken.

All work is being carried out safely, legally and in line with government codes of practice.

Part 3 : Use of herbicides

When and where it is deemed necessary to use herbicides, the following will apply:

- 3.1. The PPC Contractor applying the herbicide uses suitable, appropriate personal protective equipment and has the appropriate Certificate of Competence for the Safe Use of Herbicides;
- 3.2. The PPC Contractor is suitably equipped to deal with any spillage or similar incident;
- 3.3. The herbicides are being mixed and prepared in an appropriate location and in a safe and legal way (or are supplied ready-mixed);
- 3.4. The herbicides are being applied using a controlled droplet applicator in accordance with industry “best practice” for rate and method of application;
- 3.5. All appropriate health and safety regulations are being followed;
- 3.6. The herbicides are being stored in a safe and legal way;
- 3.7. Up to date and appropriate records of the herbicides applied and the areas treated are being kept and are available within 5 working days of request;
- 3.8. All environmental risks are being managed appropriately. Currently the only herbicide being used by the PPC is (amenity-grade) Glyphosate. An information sheet on weed control has been prepared and is available from the Parish Office