

Update - Cleeve Prior Parish Council Tree Management

In March this year a concerned Cleeve Prior resident reported to the Parish Council that the field maple tree by the main roadway in Mill Lane was shedding branches and looking unsafe. This was discussed at our March meeting. Councillors were asked to recommend tree surgeons as this particular tree had been examined four years earlier by a tree specialist (recommended by Wychavon tree officer) who informed us that the tree was dying & would need to be removed at some point.

The Parish Council obtained three assessments/quotes regarding the safety and potential longevity of the tree estimated to be **50-60 years of age**. Two stated that it was in a dangerous condition and needed to be felled. The third said he could possibly reduce the tree by fifty percent but felt it would be a short term fix to make it safe for a couple more years. We also obtained a report from a tree specialist prior to the decision being taken to fell the tree, stating that it should be felled at ground level as soon as possible and a heavy reduction would not be suitable due to the weak structure of the tree. Furthermore, the roots had caused damage to the gas mains. These issues were discussed at our May Council meeting. Due to safety concerns the decision was made to take immediate action and remove the tree entirely. A vote was taken to support this decision.



The results have vindicated the decision as the main trunk was found to be hollow by advanced internal decay (as pictured). The Parish Council has to consider matters like this on many occasions.

This explanatory note has been produced as a resident of the village has publicly criticised the Parish Council's decision and process with communications which encourage others to think that something underhand or unnecessary has taken place. The Parish Council conducts its business in an open and professional way and refutes suggestions of inappropriate actions.

Our next meeting is on Monday 19th June at 7.30pm at Memorial Hall. Please feel free to contact me on clerk@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk if you have any comments or concerns.

Stacey Smith
Clerk and RFO to Cleeve Prior Parish Council