



BOURN PARISH COUNCIL

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND GRASS VERGE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Bourn Parish Council (the Council) has contracted for the grounds maintenance on the Jubilee Playing Field and the children's play areas both there and at Hall Close/Riddy Lane for many years and, more recently, added the play area at Broadway and the area around the War Memorial.

With effect from April 2020 the Council has taken over the responsibility for the management of the grass verges within the village boundary, defined as within the 30mph speed limit area (this does not include the short stretch of 30mph limit on Fox Road towards the A1198 at the Longstowe end). Outside the 30mph area the grass verges, and also the 30mph section of Fox Road, will still be cut, under contract, by Cambridgeshire County Council Highways (CCC) two or three times per year at unspecified times. The attached maps are as supplied by CCC to show the areas which they describe as grass verges (coloured green) which we and our contractors will be basing our schedules on in the future (minor variations may occur, by arrangement).

CCC relinquished all responsibilities for the grass verges within the village from the above date and also do not require the Council to adhere to any previous timings with regard to the cutting of the grass verges. It is now for the Council to determine as and when grass verges are to be cut, and to what extent. With the move towards councils across the country becoming greener, environmentally more friendly, and adding to their local biodiversity, the Council has agreed that the schedule for cutting the grass verges should be drawn up and made available in order that all residents are made aware of how it will be managed going forward.

All grass verges will be cut three times per year; during the first half of May, the first half of July and in late September/early October. These timings are approximate and will depend on, among other things, the weather and the growing season. Our contractors will only be cutting a maximum of one metre wide along each road edge, subject to any health and safety regulations, especially in respect of visibility splays for traffic at road junctions. The remaining parts of the grass verges will be allowed to return to their natural state, hopefully with an increase in wild flowers and plants. Any area taken over by invasive plants will be cut back whenever needed at the general discretion of the contractors or at the request of the Council. There are also some areas which have been identified as being ideal for the cultivation of wild flowers which will be dealt with separately. Advice on these

areas has been taken in consultation with [The Bee Road](#), PlantLife, and the Wildlife Trust. Further areas that will benefit from similar treatment will be identified in years to come. In some parts of the village residents have already taken on the responsibility for keeping the grass verge immediately outside their property tidy, and sometimes further. This is to be applauded in helping keep the village looking at its best. The Council is more than happy for this to continue and will be equally happy should any other residents wish to do the same.

The grassed areas at all three playing fields and play areas will be cut approximately every two weeks from May until October and, at the same time, the areas around the individual pieces of play equipment and furniture, such as benches and bins, will be strimmed to keep clear. This also includes the enclosed infant play area at the Jubilee Playing Field. The grass around the War Memorial will also be mown on a two-weekly cycle through the season.

The perimeter vegetation at the Jubilee Playing Field will be maintained three times across the season, strimming back any brambles, nettles, etc to give a tidy appearance around the whole recreation ground. This will include the perimeter to the rear of the sports pavilion and at the rear of the car parking area. Lower branches of trees and any dangerous limbs should be removed where they may interfere with the grass-cutting.

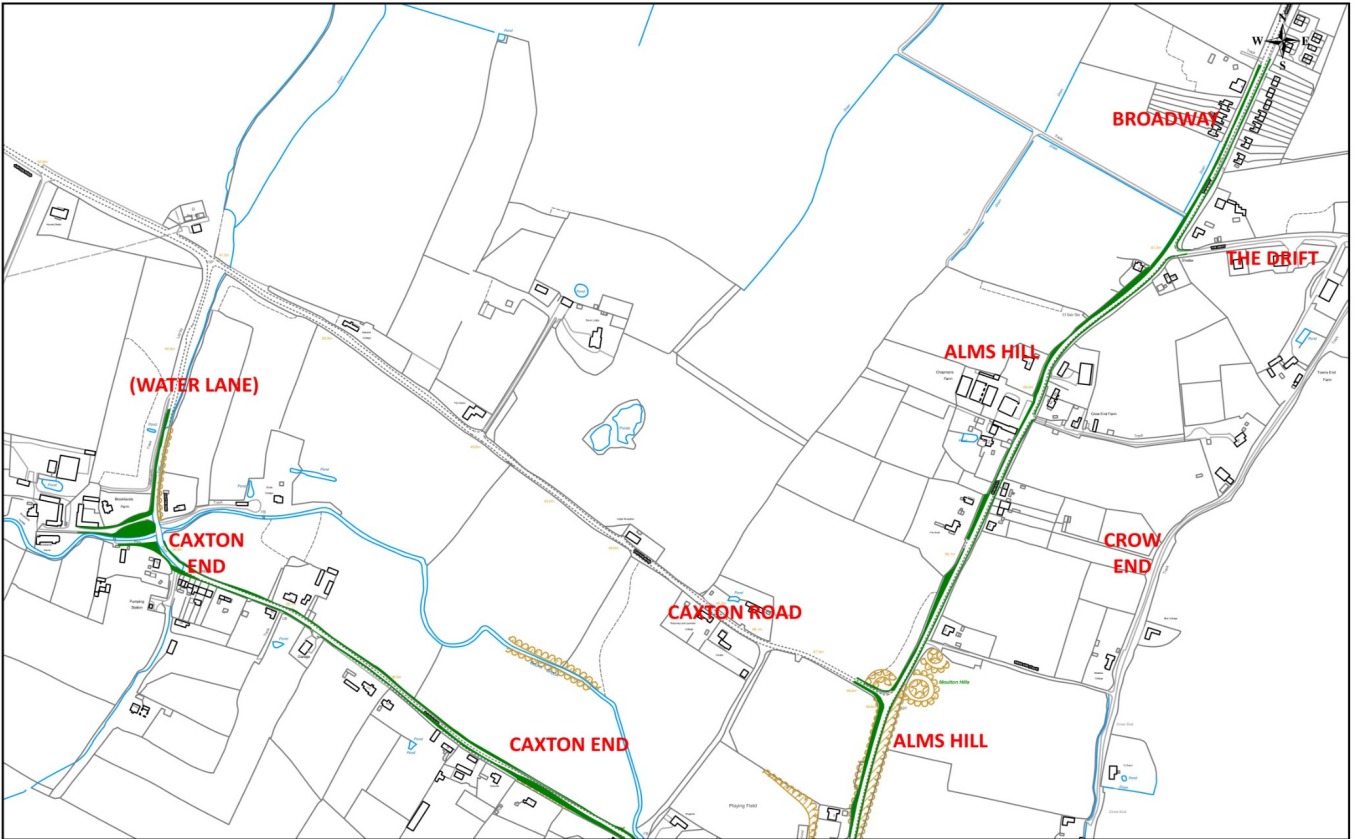
The perimeter vegetation at the Hall Close/Riddy Lane play area will be maintained in the same manner as the Jubilee Playing Field but only once per season. This will also include cutting back vegetation alongside the central ditch and trimming the hedge facing the play area from the rear of 74 Hall Close to the far end of the side of number 75 Hall Close. (The responsibility for the condition of the actual ditch and its flow and culverts, including any fallen trees or debris, lies with South Cambridgeshire District Council, as does any problem/s with the trees between the play area and the Riddy Lane footpath/bridleway from the school gates westwards. They are also responsible for any failures of the fencing along the access road and the garage area).

The perimeters of both the Jubilee Playing Field and the Hall Close/Riddy Lane play area will be flailed back by 2 to 3 metres at the end of each season in late October/early November to stop encroachment by more robust undergrowth.

Additional work and cuts may be made either at the request of the Council or at the recommendation of the contractors.

This policy will be reviewed annually to keep abreast of future developments.

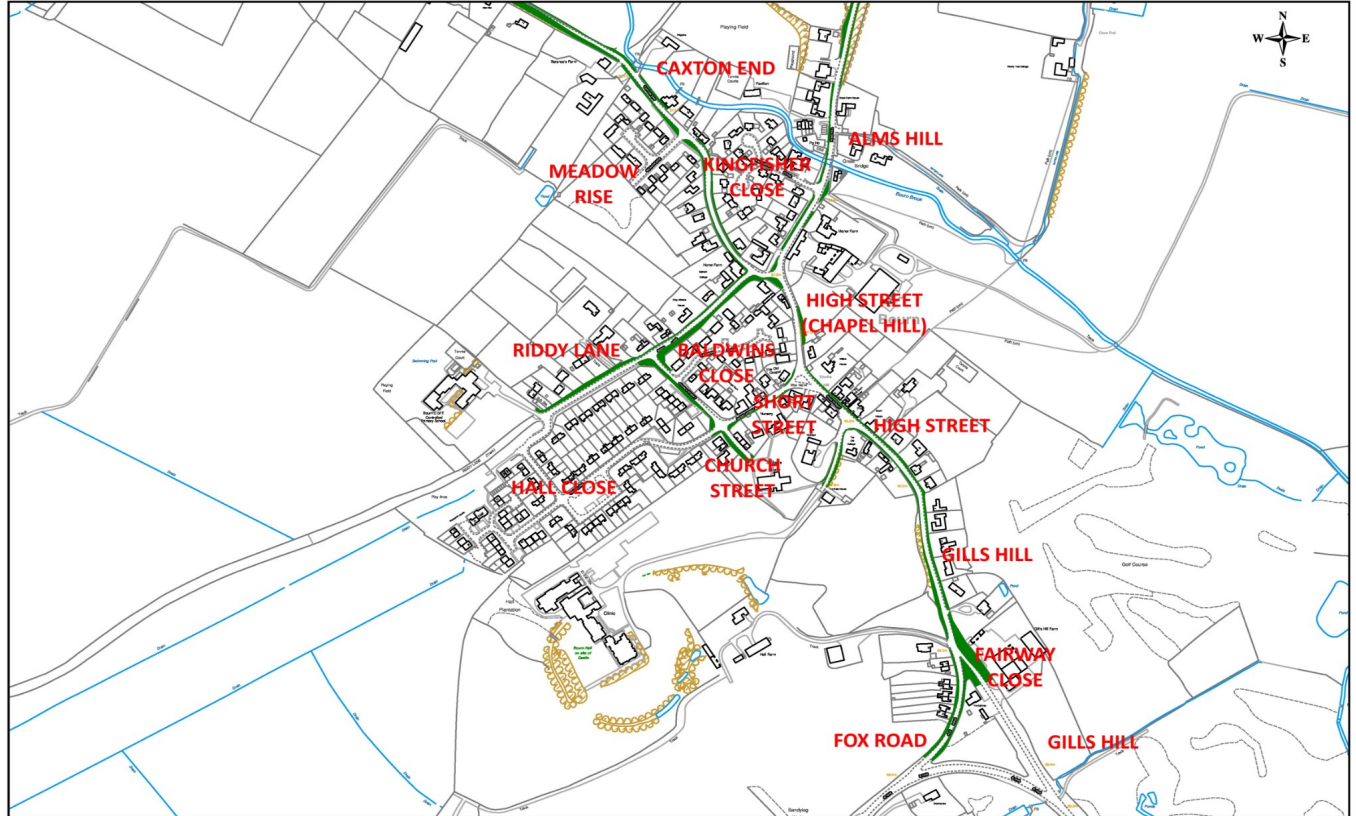
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Scale (at A3): 1:4000
Date: 24/03/2009
By: fn266

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