**Context.**

Dean Parish Council is responsible for a number of green spaces which are maintained for the benefit of the entire community. Most of these have the status of village greens and are registered to the ownership of the Council, others are common land or verges which the Council maintains as a public service. All such areas are described in the Dean Parish Council Land Assessment, and those under active management are listed in the Parish Grass Cutting Schedule.

**Vision**

To ensure that Dean Parish Council’s greenspaces are protected for future generations and managed to provide good quality public greenspace for amenity and leisure use, as well as maximising its value for biodiversity, nature recovery, climate mitigation and adaptation.

**Protection and Safety**

Dean Parish Council will protect its green spaces from encroachment or unauthorised development by registering them with the Land Registry and ensuring that all uses meet the Council’s wider objectives.

A nominated Parish Councillor will be allocated to each parcel of Parish Green Space and will be responsible for conducting periodic reviews and drawing the Council’s attention to any safety issues or outstanding maintenance items. The allocation will be reviewed at each Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.The Council will include an Open Spaces item on the Agenda at every meeting of the council to ensure that such issues are recorded and addressed.

With the exception of some verges used for overflow parking, it is not the intention of the Council that its green spaces should be used by motorised or wheeled vehicles other than those essential to disabled people and children’s toys. The use of motorised vehicles on village greens, other than for essential maintenance, is illegal and occurrences should be brought to the attention of the Council.

**Amenity and Leisure**

It is the Council’s intention that the green spaces under its control will be available for the general amenity and leisure activities of the community. To this end the green spaces will be managed with some areas mown for sport and recreational activities while other areas are managed to provide areas for conservation and the development of wild flower leys etc. Where the Council has ownership of footpaths and rights of way these will be maintained in a suitable condition for public access by appropriately shod members of the community.

**Sustainability and Biodiversity**

It is the Council’s intention that all green spaces will be managed for sustainability and biodiversity in so far as is reasonably practicable without significant impediment of their uses for recreation and leisure. To this end grass cutting schedules will be implemented to encourage wild flower propagation, pollinators and wild life while maintaining areas of shorter grass where necessary for sporting or community events.

**Volunteers**

The Council encourages volunteers to take local responsibility for the management of agreed areas of the village green spaces provided the aim aligns with the Council's vision stated above. Any individual or group of residents of the parish wishing to adopt such an area should make their case to the Council at a public meeting. Proposals should be made in advance in writing to the Parish Clerk and include details of the location of the area, the intended management regime, how it aligns to the Council's vision, the names and addresses of those accepting management responsibility and any financial implications for the Parish Council to consider. All such areas must remain fully accessible to the public. (See guidance below for the production of a written Green Space Management Plan).

**Green Space Management Plan Guidance**

There should be no additional cost to the Parish Council. The people submitting the proposal will be responsible for doing the work involved.

1. **Description of the piece of land**

Give full details of the piece of land you would like to manage, and ideally include a map and photograph so the council can see exactly where you mean.

For example, is it one end or corner of a village green, or a larger area? Are there important parts to look after within the area, such as historical, geological or environmental features, or particular flora or fauna? Are there footpaths, roads, waterways, services such as power lines, neighbouring properties etc?

1. **What does the community value this land for?**

For example, is it valued as a neat and tidy area for picnics, games, play or village events, and/or how it looks from a nearby road, path or properties that overlook it?

Or is the area important for wildlife and biodiversity, or environmental or historical interest?

1. **What is the proposed outcome for the land?**

Describe how your proposals will change the layout and/or appearance of this area of land (e.g. paths, waterways, well-cut grass for playing, longer grass, proposed planting or flowerbeds, areas of woodland etc). **How does the area of land need to be managed, and who will do it?** **What regular maintenance such as grass cutting regime is required?** Describe how you and other volunteers plan to get started, what you will do, when and how you will do the work required during the year, and how you will monitor its effectiveness.

1. **Is your management plan “fixed” and how will you review/develop it with time?**

If not fixed, please explain how it may evolve, and how you will review progress and provide oversight of this. How will the Parish Council be updated? **Do local people support your proposal?** Have you consulted local people about your proposal, and taken note of any comments or suggestions from people living close to the area of land?