

## **Wicken Parish Council Mowing Approach From March 2025**

### **Covering Wicken and UPware**

Objective: to strike a balance between people and nature that works regardless of the extent of annual growth

#### **Four mowing approaches for different areas**

1. Intensive mowing regime, including May - 2 cuts per month starting with 1 cut in March and ending with 1 cut in October
2. Intensive mowing + No Mow May
3. 2 cuts a year (1st and last)
4. Intensive mowing with longer cut

And one area of wildflower sowing

#### **Rational**

- Evidence suggests different mowing strategies are ideal for wildlife
- Focused on biodiversity hotspots
- Areas with existing wildflowers left longer for pollinators

#### **Considerations**

- Feedback from No Mow May (both positive and negative)
- Simple approach for contractors to follow
- Would need to be communicated to parishioners
- Nothing is permanent, if it doesn't work can always be corrected the following month

#### **Wicken**

##### **1. Intensive mowing regime every month, including May**

- The Recreation Ground
- Pond Green (apart from under the willow trees near the pond)
- Cross Green
- Mission Hall Green (except meadow area in front of number 44 High Street and area from the front of the Almshouses to Chapel Lane)
- Maids Head Green
- Cemetery
- Cemetery car park

##### **2. Intensive mowing + No Mow May**

- All verges\*

- Churchyard

\*verges to have a small strip (30cm) cut where the verge is adjacent to a path. Areas around benches on verges to be cut

### **3. Two cuts per mowing season (first and last mows)**

- Verges on north side High Street along the Maids Head Green
- Meadow on Pond Green (outside 44 High St)
- (Pond Green) 2 metre strip under the willow trees but with 1 access point
- Both sides of Hawes Lane
- Lower Road – all of North side

### **4. Mow some areas as normal but higher (approx. 3 inches):**

- Area of grass in the cemetery car park

### **Wildflower sowing**

Plant a square of poppies and other wildflowers at the back of the cemetery in the far corner

- When first planted the ground to be relatively clear of grass to allow seeds to take
- Low maintenance after sowing, normal cut in autumn onwards

This would be done by volunteers from Parish Council (and any other interested parishioners).

### **Upware**

### **Open Space**

Intensive mowing regime every month, including May. 2 cuts per month starting with 1 cut in March and ending with 1 cut in October

### **Verges**

Intensive mowing and No Mow May