



# Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

## Non-confidential Grass Cutting Agreement

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**Report to:** Planning and Development Committee

**Meeting Date:** 17 June 2026

**Report by:** Administration Officer

**Power/duty which decision falls under:**

Open Spaces Act 1906 ss10 (*Power to maintain open spaces*)

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 s40, as amended by Environment Act 2021

(*Statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity*)

**Which council objective(s) it falls under:**

- Protect and enhance our green spaces and street scene
- Preserve and enhance heritage assets, environmental assets and wildlife
- To recognise the climate and biodiversity emergency and it should be considered as the basis of all decision and policy making

### **SUMMARY:**

Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council currently undertake more grass cutting than is required by the Highways Grass Cutting Agreement with Lincolnshire County Council. In order to improve and enhance biodiversity, and to release capacity within the grounds team to allow further work to be undertaken and completed, a number of areas have been identified within the village for a reduced mowing schedule.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

To approve a reduced mowing schedule (three times per year) for the four areas identified in the report.

**Public Sector Equality Duty:**

*Consider how policies/decisions affect those protected under the Equality Act)*

- Applies throughout the parish and does not directly impact on any individual or group
- Reduced grass cutting may have a positive impact on residents who value environmental and biodiversity improvements
- Visibility at junctions, footways and crossings should be maintained for accessibility and public safety

**Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity:**

- Directly impacts on conservation and biodiversity by allowing grass to grow longer between cuts, providing habitats and food sources for wildlife and insects, and contributing to nature corridors and existing 'no mow' areas within the village

**Consideration on carbon reduction:**

- Reduced mowing will decrease fuel consumption, machinery use, and vehicle emissions

**Impact on staff:**

- Reduced cutting will release capacity within the Grounds team, allowing staff to focus on other grounds maintenance duties and outstanding work across the parish

**Does the report consider any new activity? If 'Yes', has a risk assessment, including risk management proposals, been included for consideration and adoption by the council? (Financial Regulation 17b)**

No

# REPORT

## 1. Background

Lincolnshire County Council has a grass cutting agreement in place with Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council to cut designated areas of highway grass within the parish boundary, in accordance with a Highway Grass Cutting Agreement.

The annual agreement was reviewed and approved by Full Council in May 2026 (FC26/105.b)

The Grass Cutting Agreement stipulates that the designated areas must be cut a **minimum of three times between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> October each year.**

## 2. Current Position

A request has been received from a councillor for the committee to review the frequency of cutting in light of the council's bio-diversity objectives.

The grounds and estates team historically have cut the highway areas on a two-weekly cycle (approximately fifteen cuts per year).

Since June, the operational team have been implementing a three-weekly cutting cycle (approximately ten cuts per year) with a view to release capacity to progress other ongoing and outstanding tasks and to review the impact of this.

To continue promoting biodiversity duties, it is suggested that the grass cutting schedule could be further reviewed in targeted areas to be cut three times per year.

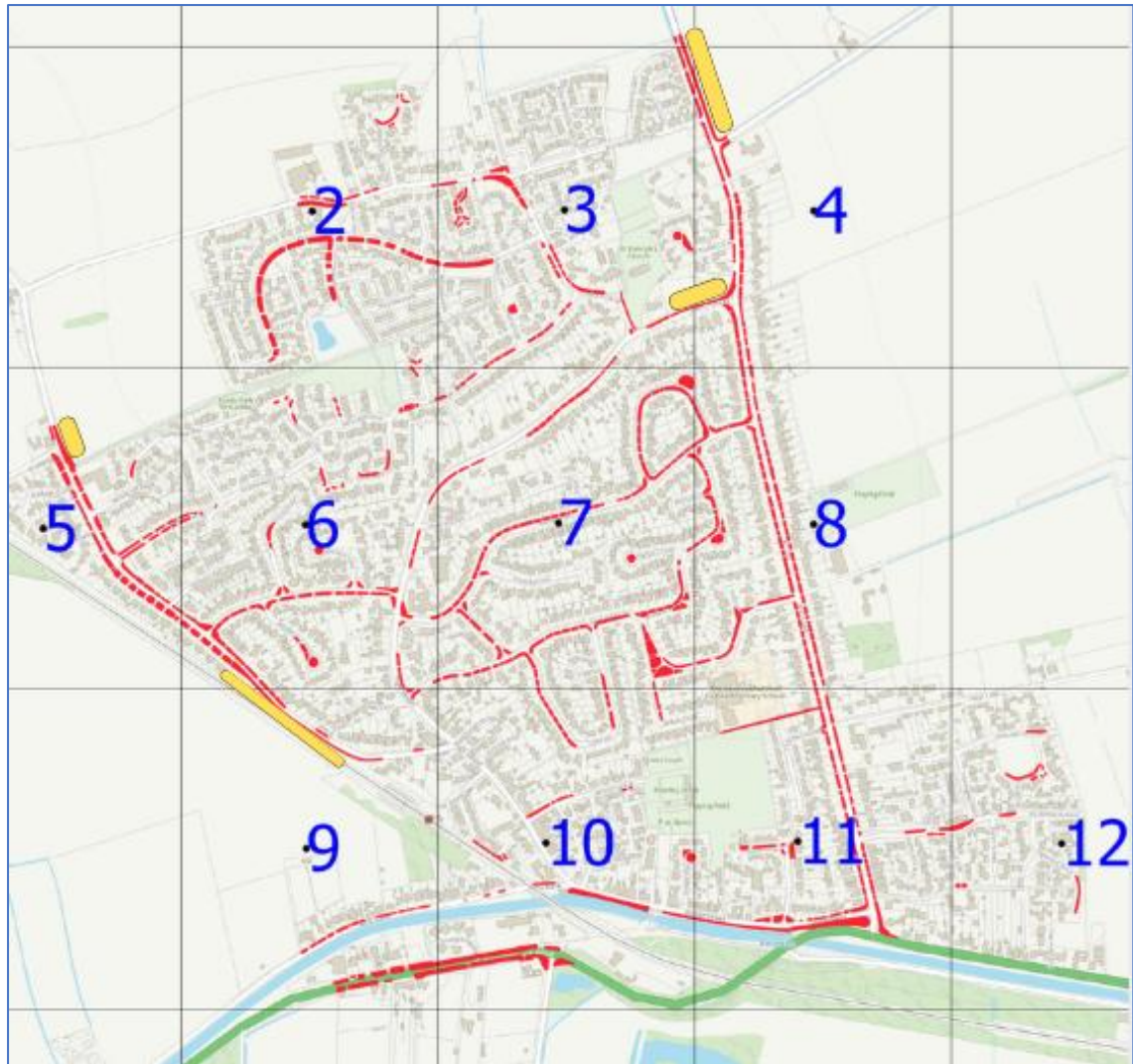
## 3. Proposed areas for reduced cutting

Previous public consultation (The Big Community Survey, 2021) identified that grounds maintenance is highly valued within the parish, with grass cutting of verges and green spaces highlighted as 'important' or 'very important' by 88% of residents.

This feedback needs to be balanced with workload capacity and the importance of enhancing biodiversity.

Multiple 'no mow' areas have been identified around the village, contributing to biodiversity initiatives and nature corridors in the centre of the village and have been extended in this second year of implementation.

The areas identified in yellow on the map below have been highlighted for reduced cutting (three times per year) as a starting point based on the lower impact this will have on the visual amenity that grass cutting provides in the community and in areas where it will not affect visibility for road safety.



- Sykes Lane (grid 5)
- Sykes Lane (grid 6 and 9)
- Church Road (grid 3 and 4)
- Mill Lane (grid 4)