**BIODIVERSITY POLICY**

 In response to the strengthened ‘biodiversity duty’ placed on local authorities introduced by the Environment Act 2021. Parish Council consider biodiversity in its decision making and any actions it takes.

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# Background

All local authorities including parish councils must consider what actions to take in respect of Biodiversity. .Policies and objectives should be agreed by the Council and considered on a regular basis. This Council will give reconsideration to its policy and objectives on an annual basis at the Annual Council meeting in May.

According to the Act, public authorities need to check if a number of strategies affect how they comply with their biodiversity duty including:

Local nature recovery strategies Species conservation strategies

Protected site strategies.

An understanding is required of the strategies in respect of relevancy ie does the Council own or manage any land and have an awareness of how the strategies could affect decision making if they are relevant to their organisation, be aware of how these strategies affect land. The authority should also consider conserving or enhancing in respect of biodiversity principals in respect of plants, animals, fungi etc basically anything which lives and exists on the area in question.

 **Parish Council will commit to Biodiversity principals and take every opportunity prior to decision making to:**

1. Consider biodiversity in its decision making to offer protection and do its best to prevent adverse impacts in respect of plants, animals, birds, insects, fungi etc or anything living within the area to which a decision applies.
2. Parish Council will try and raise awareness of biodiversity through communication through its website and newsletters to the parishioners.
3. The Council will work, given the opportunity, in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.
4. When responding to consultations such as planning applications,which developing land should include provision of habitats for birds, bats etc and other consultations it will consider if any biodiversity considerations need to be addressed and include these in its response.
5. Will use the correct time scale to do any grounds maintenance or vegetation removal to minimise any impact on birds, insects, animals or plants etc