

## **Biodiversity Policy**

Adopted 3/12/24

### **Overview**

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy and decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021, so that public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

This means a public authority must:

- Consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity;
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on this consideration;
- Act to deliver the policies and achieve the objectives.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth<sup>1</sup>.

### **Parish Council responsibilities**

The Parish Council is responsible for one playground, the sportsfield and .... of Common Land.

### **What the Council will do**

- Consider the impact of biodiversity when making Council decisions
- Consider the impact of biodiversity when commenting on planning applications
- Promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website
- Consider the Environment Act local nature recovery strategy when created and how the Council can contribute
- Review how the Council manages the playground. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - Not using pesticides or herbicides
- Review how the Council manages its open spaces. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - Minimising the use of pesticides or herbicides
  - Managing the mowing to allow a more diverse range of flora to flourish
  - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation in suitable areas to provide a habitat for invertebrates
  - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna
  - Allowing areas of longer grasses and flowers to grow where appropriate
  - Managing the swale to encourage a wide range of flora to flourish
  - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in "Biodiversity 2020: a strategy of England's wildlife and ecosystems" by DEFRA