

## **Biodiversity Policy**

### **The Role of the Parish Council**

The Parish Council has an important leadership role to play in creating a sustainable community Environment where biodiversity can thrive.

The Parish Council recognise its existing and future responsibilities both to conserve and promote biodiversity and to take positive action through innovation in the management of open spaces and verges, as well as conservation of our natural areas.

The Parish Council will strive to lead by example in positively managing the village's treasured and unique habitats.

### **About Biodiversity**

Thriving biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems are essential for our survival and wellbeing and biodiversity losses are unprecedented.

Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of forms of life found in an area, including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms like bacteria. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems to maintain, balance and support life.

Biodiversity supports everything in nature we need to survive including, food, oxygen, clean air and water.

### **What The Council Will do to Promote Biodiversity**

1. The Parish Council will, as far as is possible, conserve and promote the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work. Special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
2. The Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.
3. The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as part of its leadership role within the local community.
4. The Parish Council will involve the community in promoting biodiversity and living areas on its land including, for example, tree planting, developing living areas and wilding areas.
5. The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website
6. The Parish Council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. It will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
7. The Parish Council will keep an up-to-date Biodiversity Action Plan which will aim to enhance biodiversity on areas of common land. A copy of the Action Plan is attached to this policy document.

**Date reviewed and adopted:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Next review:** May 2026

## **Biodiversity Action Plan**

### **Improving Common Land**

Most of the patches of common land in the village are grass covered. Some are used by the community for well-dressing and similar activities. Starting in 2025, we will identify one piece of common land each year that has potential for improvement without restricting customary usage. We will inform the village of our objective and invite them to contribute ideas and/or help with implementation.

### **October 2025**

The first piece of land to be addressed is a small area of steep embankment, a short way up the Lydgate, below the hedge of The Old Smithy. It is not used by the community. The proposal is to improve the biodiversity through planting of pollinator friendly flowers and/or bulbs requiring minimum maintenance.

- Parish council to agree a sum for the purchase of plants/bulbs.
- Consult with the owners of the adjacent property
- Invite ideas from the community
- Agree the approach
- Agree a day(s) for planting.