

# FLORE PARISH COUNCIL

## BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Flore Parish Council (FPC) recognises its responsibility to comply with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Section 40 (NERC), updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, which creates a duty for a public authority, when exercising its functions, to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. This duty means FPC can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes everything that is alive. It is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, food, fuel, fresh water, clean air, protection from natural disasters, climate regulation and pollination of plants, including those in food crops. It is a core component of sustainable development.

To help FPC meet its Biodiversity policy, the Council will:

- when commenting on planning applications; support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats;
- support protection of sensitive habits from development;
- consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications;
- as far as is possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages;
- 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;
- wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, and encourage and support individuals and village organisations to manage their areas with biodiversity in mind.
- where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on Council land including for example tree planting, wild-flower meadows, birdbox making;
- communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and the *Messenger* newsletters.

Signed Christine Littlewood (FPC Vice-Chair)

Date: 12 March 2024