



# Waldringfield Parish Council

## Biodiversity Policy

*Adopted Nov 2023*

# Waldringfield Parish Council

## Biodiversity Policy

### Introduction

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 or decision making.

This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives .

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth<sup>1</sup>. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea.

### The Local Area

Waldringfield Parish is a rural village, who is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland, salt flats and riverfront.

### Parish Council responsibilities

The Parish Council owns the playing fields on the corner of Cliff Road and School Road. The Parish Council is also responsible for the grass cutting the playing field, and is currently contracted by Suffolk County Council for the cutting of the footpaths within the village.

The Parish Council also appoints a Tree Warden who organises a number of activities such as new hedge planting and the propagation of indigenous species of trees which are provided to the community. They are also responsible for assessing tree safety in planning applications.

### What the Parish Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.

---

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

- It will continue to liaise with contractors responsible for the verges maintenance to the use of pesticides and herbicides is not used on Parish Council owned land or in the village.
- It will continue to make proactive decisions in relation to the playing fields, such as
  - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
  - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates
  - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
  - Leaving a wildflower border when cutting
  - When required for safety , using non-detrimental weed control
- Continue to participate in organisations and groups that support biodiversity initiatives
- The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.
- The Parish Council will ensure that biodiversity is a consideration in the delivery of its services, policies and mandates.