

# **FLAXTON PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY POLICY**

**July 2023**

## **Introduction and background**

Parish Councils have a duty to conserve biodiversity in accordance with Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006. The Act can be found on the government legislation website at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40/2011-04-22?timeline=true>.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form.

Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel, and the vital services our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

Under Section 41 of the Act, the Secretary of State must publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat, which in the Secretary of State's opinion are, of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity in England.

The list of habitats and species of principal importance in England which includes 56 habitats and 943 species can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england>

## **Flaxton Parish Council Biodiversity Policy**

Flaxton Parish Council will, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

To help Flaxton Parish Council meet its biodiversity obligations it will consider allocating funds along with other stakeholders to both understand the biodiversity of the Parish as well as implementing or supporting projects that will enhance biodiversity for residents.

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.

Flaxton Parish Council does not own any land so will, as far as is reasonably possible, seek to conserve the biodiversity of the land owned by others within the Civic Parish. It will support beneficial practices with regards to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.

Flaxton Parish Council undertakes to work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the Parish. The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues.

It will, where feasible, seek to involve the community in biodiversity projects, including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making. The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website.