

Moulsoe Parish Council Biodiversity Policy

Introduction

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Moulsoe Parish Council in exercising its functions must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take to further the general biodiversity objective.

Definition

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

Policy

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area. Moulsoe Parish Council will show that it has regard for conserving biodiversity if it has identified ways to integrate biodiversity in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact of biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- 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.
- endeavour to conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages.
- take care to word the specification of ground maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, while reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.
- encourage and support other organisations within the parish/town to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind.
- raise, wherever possible, public awareness of biodiversity issues
- communicate information and raises awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.

Review:

This Biodiversity Policy will be reviewed regularly, at least every 3 years, to ensure its effectiveness, relevance, and alignment with any changes in legislation or community needs.