STRETTON ON DUNSMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy

1. Introduction

In accordance with the duty imposed on Parish Councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, Stretton-on-Dunsmore 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.

2. About Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of lifeforms 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. Thriving biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems are essential for our survival and wellbeing as they support everything in nature that we need to survive including, food, oxygen, clean air and clean water.

3. Parish Council Action

Stretton-on-Dunsmore Parish Council recognises its duty to conserve, increase and promote biodiversity within the community therefore it will take the following action: -

a. 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.

b. The Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.

c. The Parish Council will, as far as is possible, conserve and promote the biodiversity of the land and trees 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.

d. The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as part of its leadership role within the local community. It will promote good practices via its website, social media and noticeboards.

e. All contractors who are engaged to work on land or property by the Parish Council will be issued with a copy of this policy.

Adopted September 2023.