

# Wickham Skeith Parish Council

## Biodiversity Policy

Adopted: 2 March 2026

Minute reference: 020306/12

### BACKGROUND

Policy adopted 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.

This duty also means that parish councils can spend funds on conserving biodiversity.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Parish Council's area.

In particular, the Council will aim to improve biodiversity in the following ways:

- Establish a sub-group on Biodiversity,
- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- manage its land using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support residents and local organisation activities through the Wildlife Group to enhance and promote biodiversity.

### ACTIONS

#### Planning applications

The Council will use its best endeavours:

- 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 habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife.

#### Land and property management

The Council will use its best endeavours working with the Wildlife Group to:

- consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity including sympathetic management of the village green to retain some uncut areas;

#### Local community

The Council will use its best endeavours, with the Wildlife Group:

- to raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through the parish website and newsletter.
- where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land.

#### Partners

The Council will use its best endeavours to work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.

Through the working group, the Council will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.