

## **Biodiversity Duty Statement**

Parish Council acknowledges its duty to fulfil its biodiversity duty as mandated by the Environment Act 2021, we recognise the importance of promoting biodiversity conservation within our community.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (or the 'Biodiversity Duty') states that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity".

### **What is biodiversity and why is it important?**

Biodiversity is the variety of life, from differences between habitats and species, to differences within species, right down to the genes. Conserving biodiversity provides benefits for wildlife, the landscape, our cultural heritage, our health and wellbeing, socio-economics, and the health of the planet through the ecosystem services it provides.

### **Our Commitment.**

Bearsted Parish Council is fully committed to taking actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation and raising awareness about its significance within our local community. Our approach includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

#### **Community Engagement.**

Information on biodiversity, from outside organisations, who must adhere to criteria set out in our publicity statement, will be shared through our newsletters & website and other social media platforms. We will support local organisations in their efforts to raise awareness about biodiversity's significance through workshops and public events.

#### **Local Planning and Development.**

We will participate in local planning and development proposals, ensuring that biodiversity conservation is a key consideration. Advocating for green infrastructure and nature-based solutions in development projects will be a priority.

#### **Grants and Donations.**

Consider financial support for local events & organisations that increase, protect or educate about biodiversity.

#### **Managing the Parish Council land for biodiversity.**

Create a nature reserve at Meadow Bank, including bird boxes, bug hotels and log piles to encourage wildlife.

Consider planting additional hedgerows and trees on Council owned land.

Consider the impact on biodiversity with every project and ensure local targets to increase biodiversity are achieved.

This statement will be reviewed every two years.