

Biodiversity Policy

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us, and includes every species of plant and animal, their genetic material and their communities. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining living networks or “ecosystems” that provide us with the health, wealth, food, fuel and vital services, upon which we depend. It is a core component of sustainable development.

In accordance with the duty imposed on Parish Councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, Almondsbury Parish Council will, in exercising its functions, take regard (in so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions) of the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

To help Almondsbury Parish Council meet the biodiversity requirements, it will take the following steps:-

- 1 When considering planning applications, it will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats, or the provision of new habitats. It will support protection of especially sensitive habitats from development, and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- 2 As far as possible, Almondsbury Parish Council will conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will strive to adopt beneficial practices with regard to the cutting and removal of vegetation, the application of chemicals and the timing of maintenance work. Care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance agreements to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment. It will remove invasive species as required under appropriate legislation, in order to prevent harm to native species.
- 3 Almondsbury Parish Council will seek to raise awareness of biodiversity issues where possible, using its social media channels. It will encourage practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity when making grants. Where it is appropriate to do so, it will encourage tree planting, wildflower meadows and the installation of bird and bat boxes.

(Adopted by Open Spaces Committee on 6th February 2024.)