

## **Rolleston on Dove Parish Council Biodiversity policy**

In accordance with the Duty imposed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Rolleston on Dove Parish Council will in exercising all its functions have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form. Biodiversity is essential in sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, wealth, food and the vital services our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

To help Rolleston on Dove Parish Council meet its Biodiversity Policy it commits to carrying out a Biodiversity Audit and:

- The Parish Council will consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- The Parish Council will, as far as possible, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages. It will adopt beneficial practices with regard 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.
- Rolleston on Dove Parish Council undertakes to work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the Parish.
- The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including, for example, tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making. The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and social media.

This Policy was adopted by Rolleston on Dove Parish Council on 08 July 2024 and will be reviewed every five years at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.