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Agenda Item 12 – To consider the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England and agree a policy and any actions to be taken.

Background –

Under the 2021 Environment Act public authorities including parish councils must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Although there is no obligation on parish councils to publish a report on their actions they are expected to complete their first consideration by 1st January 2024 of what actions they will take.

You should as a minimum have biodiversity on the agenda at a meeting in 2023. Note what action in respect of biodiversity is already taking place locally and agree what further steps to take going forward.

Moving forward –

We will need to agree that a Biodiversity Policy is drawn up outlining any aims and objectives for working towards enhancing and protecting biodiversity. Obviously there are several things the Parish Council already does in this regard and these can all be brought under the aims of the policy.

Recommendation -

That you consider creating a Biodiversity Policy and as part of this carry out a review of what biodiversity plans are already in place and create an action plan of what more the council can do and how else we can support the actions of others.