Environmental Policy

1. Policy Statement

The Parish Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy.

2. Aims

2.1 Council Activities

In carrying out its own activities, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will:-

- Re-use and recycle
- Improving utility consumption by investing in energy efficient technology (for instance, low power street lighting)
- Provide information electronically as much as possible
- Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on Council business, where practical, by walking, cycling, or sharing the use of transport
- Encourage its members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times
- Encourage developers toward Biodiversity Net Gain on new developments
- Adopt a Biodiversity Plan
- Encourage wildlife such as birds, bats, bees and insects through the use of suitable plants including perennials and self-seeding annuals
- Encourage wildlife such as birds, bats, bees and insects through the installation of bird boxes, bat boxes and bug boxes
- Encourage the planting of trees on Council owned land and elsewhere, where applicable
- Encourage the good maintenance of the County Wildlife Site (Scarning Water Meadows)
- Improve ecological networks

2.2 Decision Making

In its decision making the Parish Council will take careful consideration of:-

- The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transportation whenever practical
- The need to reduce, re-use and recycle
- The need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- The need to protect vulnerable and protected species
- The need to conserve woodlands, Common land and surrounding landscape

2.3 Contractors and Volunteers

The Parish Council will aim to ensure that contractors and volunteers who carry out maintenance or other activities on Council owned land and elsewhere, where applicable:-

- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- Undertake the work in a manner which, wherever practical, benefits wildlife and the environment
- Where practical use native, wildflower and bee/insect friendly species

3 General

3.1 Whenever it has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economical, the Parish Council will:-

- Plan for the long term for the benefit of future generations
- Encourage new builds to be environmentally friendly
- Encourage residents to walk, cycle and use public transport
- Encourage the provision of electric vehicle charging points
- Encourage the provision of cycle paths
- Encourage local action in support of the environment
- Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life
- Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife and as support for animals and plants
- Encourage the maintenance of Public Rights of Way
- Discourage all forms of littering

Reviewed without amendment: January 2026.
Next review: January 2028.