

Great Bedwyn Parish Council

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Conserving Biodiversity Acts policy.

Great Bedwyn Parish Council has a duty by law to consider:

- Conserving biodiversity when making council decisions, under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Conserving Biodiversity:

Parish Councils should develop strategies and policies and put them into practice to ensure biodiversity is conserved. *

They should “manage” the planning system to ensure conservation.

They should manage areas within their control such as any woodland and nature reserves, buildings and land, parks and open spaces, sports grounds and cemeteries, waste and pollution, energy and water, when developing infrastructure such as roads, buildings and flood defences, making decisions about procurement, and implementing programs for economic, environmental or social programs.

*[Biodiversity duty: public authority duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The Parish Council will ensure its compliance with these laws by keeping in sight the following where possible:

- Decisions made in Council and Committee meetings are made in consideration with the impact of biodiversity in mind. Where these matters have been discussed they will be minuted.
- When approving precept and budget annually, consideration will be given to the impact on biodiversity and how the Parish Council can

affect these proportionately with funds available and the size of the parish population.

- Partner organisations, local groups and charities wishing to positively impact biodiversity will be supported where possible and information shared by the Parish Council on its media outlets.
- Delegated decisions to the Clerk and/or Cllrs and staff will make consideration to the impact on biodiversity.
- Where required the Parish Council will seek to hold public consultations before making decisions on matters that would affect biodiversity.

Approved by Full Council Jan 25

Review date.....Jan 27.....

Minutes reference.....876.24 - 22.....