SEAMER PARISH COUNCIL

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BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted by the Council on 8 October 2024

Reviewed by the Council on 10 March 2026

Next Review due 31 March 2027

Commitment Objectives – Seamer Parish Council (the Council) will:

1. Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions it makes as a council, including under delegation, including:
   i. seeking to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity as a result of the Council's activities.
   ii. identifying opportunities to increase biodiversity when practicable.
2. Encourage practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity through any grants it makes to local groups.
3. Communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.
4. Work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the Council's area.
5. Wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as part of its leadership role within the local community.
6. When considering and commenting on planning applications:
   i. support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
   ii. support protection of sensitive habitats from development.
   iii. consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
7. Monitor its internal policies and processes to enhance biodiversity.
8. As a landowner, consider how land it manages could improve biodiversity and:
   i. proactively remove invasive species as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species.
   ii. avoid the use of herbicides except in exceptional circumstances.
   iii. properly scale and time grounds maintenance work or vegetation removal such that the impact on biodiversity is minimised, including taking maintenance practices that are beneficial to biodiversity into consideration when contracts are placed.
   iv. create dedicated spaces to attract and enhance wildlife.
   v. improve the buildings it manages and land around them to enhance biodiversity.

Background informing this policy

The Council adopted this policy in response to the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' placed on local authorities introduced by the Environment Act 2021.

Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of forms of life found in an area, including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms like bacteria. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems to maintain, balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive including, food, oxygen, clean air and clean water.

The Council will take biodiversity into account in all its decisions and actions.

All local authorities including parish sector councils must consider what action to take for biodiversity and adopt relevant policies and objectives. Councils can and should reconsider their actions on a quarterly, annual or regular basis and must reconsider the actions they can take within five years of when they completed their previous consideration or reconsideration.

According to the Act, public authorities need to check if a number of strategies affect how they comply with their biodiversity duty including:

- Local nature recovery strategies
- Species conservation strategies
- Protected site strategies.

They need to understand how or if they are relevant to their organisation, be aware of how these strategies affect land that is owned and managed by them, or actions they could take to conserve or enhance biodiversity and consider how they can contribute to the strategy where appropriate.

The Council will not produce a biodiversity report and there is no legislative requirement to do so.

Signed: Chairman of the Council

Clerk of the Council and Responsible Financial Officer

Proper Officer

Date: 28 March 2026