



Report ABPC/23/012

To: Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council.

Date: 4 December 2023

Status: Public Report

Subject: Biodiversity duty

1. **SUMMARY:**

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including Parish Councils) who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

2. **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION.**

Government guidance published on 17th May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, parish council must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity,
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration,
- Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

Parish Councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the Government guidance requires all public authorities to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1st January 2024.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **To receive and note Report ABPC/23/012.**
2. **To receive and adopt the Biodiversity Policy attached**

4. **INTRODUCTION:**

A template policy has been produced by the Society of Local Council Clerks for parishes to adopt which meets the initial requirements of the guidance.

5. **CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS.**

If you have any queries about this report please contact the Responsible Financial Officer of the Council Tel.: 07928453208 or email: clerk@abpc.org.uk prior to the meeting.