LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held

Monday 30th June, 2025 at 7:30p.m.

at Lower Withington Parish Hall

Present Councillors P. Duffy (Chairman), A. Brocklehurst, P. Chrisp.
Members of the public (2).
Cheshire East Ward Member: Cllr. L. Smetham.
Dr. E. M. Maddock – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. **Apologies for absence**:
Councillor J. Bradley – Personal reason.
Councillor C. Hamilton – Personal reason.

166/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and approve the above apologies for absence. (All in favour)

2. **Declarations of interest:** None.

167/25 RESOLVED (a) To note that no declarations of interest were made. (All in favour)

7:32p.m. – One resident and Borough Councillor Smetham joined the meeting.
The resident express thanks to the Parish Council for providing financial support for the first aid course which had taken place earlier in the month. It was reported that it had been well received by residents.
7:34p.m. – One resident left the meeting.

3. **Minutes**

(a) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 19th May, 2025 had been previously circulated to all Members.

168/25 RESOLVED (a) That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 19th May, 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (All in favour)

(b) The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 19th May, 2025 had been previously circulated to all Members.

169/25 RESOLVED (a) That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 19th May, 2025 be confirmed as a correct record. (All in favour)

4. **Public forum for questions:** Members noted the expression of thanks from the resident earlier in the meeting. It was also noted that the first aid trainer had raised queries regarding the public display of the defibrillator cabinet access code and the provision of additional equipment within the cabinets.

170/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report.
(b) That the Clerk make follow up enquiries regarding the queries raised by the first aid trainer. (All in favour)

5. **Cheshire East Ward Member Cllr. L. Smetham:** Borough Councillor L. Smetham reported that it was relatively quiet at Cheshire East Council at present. Efforts are continuing to address financial challenges at the Council. Planning enforcement matters within the Ward continue to be pursued. The Head of Highways is planning to hold a meeting with Cheshire East Councillors to provide updates.

171/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

6. **Finance**

(a) Financial Statement 2025/26 as at 30th June, 2025: Members considered the financial statement 2025/26 which was unanimously accepted. (Appendix A)

(b) Receipts: The Chairman noted that no receipts had been received since the last meeting.

(c) Payments: The Chairman outlined the payments listed at Appendix B.

172/25 RESOLVED (a) That the Statement of Account as at 30th June, 2025 be received and the Chairman's observations duly noted. (Appendix A)
(b) That the report on receipts be received and duly noted.
(c) That the schedule of payments listed at Appendix B be approved. (All in favour)

7. Planning Applications

(a) Recent planning decisions: Members noted that three planning decisions had been issued by Cheshire East Council in respect of development within the Parish since the last meeting. (Appendix C)

173/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(b) Planning applications:

i. 25/1975/HOUS: Oak Lea, Salters Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9LL
Erection of a prefabricated oak-framed wooden garage on a concrete base slab (retrospective).

174/25 RESOLVED (a) That no comments be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of application 25/1975/HOUS. (All in favour)

ii. 25/2051/VOC: Bank View Farm, Hodgehill Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9LU
Variation of condition 2 – approved plans on application 24/1276M.

175/25 RESOLVED (a) That no comments be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of application 25/2051/VOC. (All in favour)

iii. 25/2081/HOUS: Daisy Bank Cottage, Trap Street, Lower Withington. SK11 9EQ
Erection of partial two storey and single storey extension to rear elevation, erection of oak framed orangery to the rear and erection of two dormer windows on the rear roof slopes.

176/25 RESOLVED (a) That no comments be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of application 25/2081/HOUS. (All in favour)

iv. Further applications received following issue of agenda: None.

177/25 RESOLVED (a) To note that no further applications had been received. (All in favour)

8. Highway maintenance and enhancements

(a) Updates on highway matters: Members noted the updates listed at Appendix D.

178/25 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk continue to pursue updates in respect of outstanding highway matters. (All in favour)

(b) Highway matters for attention: It was reported that vegetation was overhanging the footway at Leach Lane.

179/25 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk report the above issue to Cheshire East Council for attention. (All in favour)

(c) White lining at Salters Lane: It was reported that the quotation for the re-fresh of all white lining (including roundels, dragons teeth, SLOW markings, carriageway edging, central hashed area) to alert drivers to the 30mph zone had not yet been received.

180/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(d) Village gateways: It was reported that no feedback regarding the village gateways had been received from residents at the Parish Hall Open Day.

181/25 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk continue to pursue gateway designs and costs based on previously agreed specifications. (All in favour)

(e) Traffic calming at Trap Street: It was reported that confirmation of the survey dates was awaited.

182/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

9. Assets

(a) Defibrillators: It was reported that it was necessary to appoint an individual who will undertake the routine checks of the two Parish Council owned defibrillators.

183/25 RESOLVED (a) That approval be given for Councillor P. Chrisp to undertake routine maintenance checks of the two Parish Council owned defibrillators.
(b) That the Clerk update the registration at The Circuit. (All in favour)

10. Policy Updates

(a) IT Policy: Members considered the draft IT policy.

184/25 RESOLVED (a) That the draft IT policy be approved as presented (Appendix E). (All in favour)

(b) Biodiversity Policy: Members considered the draft biodiversity policy.

185/25 RESOLVED (a) That the draft biodiversity policy be approved as presented (Appendix F). (All in favour)

11. Correspondence

(a) To consider specific correspondence received by the Parish Council since the date of the last ordinary meeting and determine such actions as Members consider appropriate thereto –

i. Manchester Airport: Night noise (NAP23) consultation 2025.

186/25 RESOLVED (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)

ii. Run Through: Notification of the Cheshire Half Marathon on Sunday 14th September, 2025.

187/25 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk remind the organisers of the concerns that were raised following the 2024 event and request details of what arrangements have been implemented to avoid similar issues at the 2025 event. (All in favour)

iii. Cheshire East Council: Review of Gambling Statement of Licensing Principles.

188/25 RESOLVED (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)

iv. Cheshire East Council: Road closure notice for Hodgehill Lane, Lower Withington for its full extent on 9th July, 2025 to enable works to be carried out by BT.

189/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)

v. Cheshire Association of Local Councils: Invitation to the Cheshire and Warrington sustainable and inclusive economic strategy consultation event on 8th July, 2025.

190/25 RESOLVED (a) That anyone interested in attending the meeting contact the Clerk. (All in favour)

vi. Hide and Seek Festival: Resident notice letter.

191/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)

12. Meetings of External Organisations

(a) Jodrell Bank Observatory World Heritage Site Steering Group: It was reported that there was nothing to report as the group had not met since the last Parish Council meeting.

192/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

13. Parish Matters

(a) Gawsworth Ward Policing Team: It was reported that the latest crime report had identified one incident in Lower Withington: a fallen tree blocking the road. Police surgeries continue to be advertised on the Knutsford Police Facebook page.

193/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(b) Community Newsletter: It was reported that the next edition will be compiled in the summer. It was noted that distribution rounds for the newsletter will need to be modified following the resignations of two councillors.

194/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report.
(b) That Councillor P. Duffy arrange for the newsletter distribution rounds to be updated. (All in favour)

(c) First Aid Course: Members noted the updates received earlier in the meeting.

195/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(d) Parish Hall Open Day: It was reported that the Open Day had been well attended and well received by those present.

196/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

(e) External electricity supply at Lower Withington Parish Hall: It was noted that there had not yet been a meeting of the Committee to discuss this matter further.

197/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

14. Parish Councillor Vacancies

(a) Recent vacancies (2): It was reported that confirmation had been received from Cheshire East Council that it was not necessary for a formal election to be held.

198/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(b) Co-option of parish councillors: A resident present at the meeting expressed an interest to be co-opted to the Parish Council.

199/25 RESOLVED (a) That Mr. Lester Grant be co-opted to Lower Withington Parish Council. (All in favour)
(b) That the remaining vacancies be considered at a future meeting. (All in favour)

15. Matters for inclusion on next/future meeting agenda

(a) Boundary treatment at Dicklow Cob Village Green.

(b) Consideration of speed review criteria in respect of A535, Salters Lane and Trap Street.

(c) Updates relating to concerns about motorbike and car racing along A535.

(d) Update relating to empty properties at Jodrell Bank.

16. Date of next meeting: Monday 28th July, 2025 at 7:30p.m.

17. Exclusion of public and press

(a) To consider passing a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

200/25 RESOLVED (a) That a resolution to exclude the public and press from the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information is not required as there are no items to discuss. (All in favour)

(b) Matters for consideration including those transferred from above items: None.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8:20p.m.

Signed:..... Date: 28th July, 2025

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX A

Financial Statement – 2025/26 as at 30th June, 2025					
Actual 2024/25 £	**Details**	**2025/26 Budget £**	**Actual to May 25 £**	**Agenda Jun. 25 £**	**Budget Balance £**
	Receipts				
11,142.00	Precept	11,499.00	5,749.50		5,749.50
0.00	Balances	3,500.00	0.00		0.00
887.04	Investment interest	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Sale of assets	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Grants, donations & refunds	0.00	0.00		0.00
95.75	VAT refund	0.00	0.00		97.83
12,124.79	**Total receipts**	**14,999.00**	**5,749.50**	**0.00**	**5,847.33**
	Payments				
4,625.40	Salary (Clerk)	4,844.00	791.26	395.63	3,657.11
0.00	National Insurance (Employer)	0.00	0.00		0.00
325.00	Allowances (Clerk)	350.00	0.00		350.00
177.27	Administration	300.00	0.00		300.00
0.00	Chairman/Member allowances	0.00	0.00		0.00
220.00	Audit fees (internal & external)	440.00	232.00		208.00
300.00	Insurance	350.00	300.00		50.00
3,000.00	Grants/Donations (inc. s.137)	2,600.00	0.00	221.67	2,378.33
245.00	Website	345.00	5.00		340.00
221.04	Subscriptions/affiliation fees	285.00	178.62		106.38
200.00	Room hire	325.00	0.00		325.00
0.00	Training	210.00	0.00		210.00
0.00	Professional Services	750.00	0.00		750.00
110.95	Assets – purchase	1,000.00	0.00		1,000.00
674.33	Assets – maintenance	2,100.00	30.50		2,069.50
542.39	Newsletter	600.00	0.00	148.00	452.00
560.18	Contingency	500.00	0.00		500.00
200.76	VAT		53.50	44.33	
11,402.32	**Total payments**	**14,999.00**	**1,590.88**	**809.63**	**12,696.32**

Cash/Bank reconciliation	**01/04/24**	**19/05/25**	**30/06/25**	**31/03/26**
Balance B/Fwd	35,238.04	35,238.04	39,396.66	38,587.03
Add total receipts	14,999.00	5,749.50	0.00	5,847.33
Less total payments	14,999.00	1,590.88	809.63	12,696.32
Balance C/Fwd	35,238.04	39,396.66	38,587.03	31,738.04
Cumulative balances	**Balance**	**Balance**	**Balance**	**Balance**
	01/04/24	**19/05/25**	**30/06/25**	**31/03/26**
General funds	9,814.38	13,973.00	13,163.37	6,314.38
Earmarked reserves	25,423.66	25,423.66	25,423.66	25,423.66
	35,238.04	39,396.66	38,587.03	31,738.04

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Lower Withington Parish Council
Cash/Bank Reconciliation as at 30th June 2025

Cash				
Balance brought forward 01/04/25				
Current Account		2,335.43		
Business Reserve Account		6,583.75		
Liquidity Manager Account		26,318.86		
		35,238.04		
Plus receipts		5,749.50		
Less payments		2,400.51		
Balance carried forward 30/06/25:		38,587.03		
Bank (NatWest)				
Current Account		9,319.34		04/04/25
Add receipts/transfer since above statement				
	0.00			
		0.00		
Less unpresented cheques				
Approved 2024/25	-1,234.41			
Approved	-1,590.88			
For approval	-809.63			
		-3,634.92		
			5,684.42	30/06/25
Business Reserve Account		6,583.75		04/04/25
Add receipts/transfer since above statement				
	0.00			
		0.00		
Less unpresented cheques				
	0.00			
		0.00		
			6,583.75	30/06/25
Liquidity Manager Account		26,318.86		04/04/25
Add receipts/transfer since above statement				
	0.00			
		0.00		
Less unpresented cheques				
	0.00			
		0.00		
			26,318.86	30/06/25
Total bank balances 30/06/25			38,587.03	

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Appendix B

Payments for approval

Cheque No 000626 E. M. Maddock	£316.63	Salary: June 2025 [A]
Cheque No 000627 HM Revenue & Customs	£79.00	PAYE payment [B]
Cheque No 000628 P. Chrisp	£148.00	Newsletter printing [C]
Cheque No 000629 Vision 2 Train	£266.00	First aid training [D]

[A] Localism Act 2011 s.1 [Local Government Act 1972 s.112]
[B] Localism Act 2011 s.1 [Local Government Act 1972 s.111 - The Income Tax (Pay As You Earn) Regulations 2003 s.67G]
[C] Localism Act 2011 s.1 [Local Government Act 1972 s.142]
[D] Localism Act 2011 s.1 [Local Government Act 1972 s.137]

Appendix C

Planning applications

(a) Recent planning decisions

25/0378/HOUS	10 South View, Salters Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9DZ Proposed single storey extensions to front and rear. Decision: Approved with conditions (21/05/25)
25/0526/FUL	The Old Pub, Trap Street, Lower Withington. SK11 9EQ Proposed change of use from public house with food provision (sui generis) to restaurant and shop (Class E). Decision: Approved with conditions (30/05/25)
25/0812/DSC	Piggotts Hall, Congleton Lane, Lower Withington. Discharge of condition 3 on application 24/2383M. Decision: Approved (21/05/25)

(b) Outstanding applications

24/3271M	Land at Pitt Lane, Lower Withington. Proposed demolition of a two storey former agricultural building (now in hotel use (C1)) and replace it with a new farmhouse and garage.
24/4765/CLEUD	3 Welltrough Hall Cottages, Trap Street, Lower Withington. SK11 9EF Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development to confirm the lawful use of no.3 Welltrough Hall Cottages as a dwelling which can be occupied by persons not employed in agriculture.
25/0627/NMA	Brook Farm, Catchpenny Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9DG Non-material amendment to approval 23/2948M for Proposed demolition of a double garage and the construction of a single storey rear extension to accommodate a breakfast and garden room. Insertion of two rooflights to the front roof slope of the house and the construction of an open-sided porch to the east elevation.

25/0742/HOUS Farmgate Cottage, Farm Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9DU
Small extension that will externally rebalance the symmetry of the house across the front of the cottage from extensions completed by previous owners, and create a walk in closet and master bedroom suite along with a more proportionate hall, stairs and landing befitting the house.

25/1279/HOUS Lapwing Hall Barn, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AD
Erection of two-storey rear extension including alterations to rear and side elevations and replacement of windows.

25/1347/HOUS Foden Bank Farm, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AD
Erection of double storey side extension.

Appendix D

Updates on reported highway matters

a. Dislodged coping stone and fallen tree on bridge at Catchpenny Lane.
Update: “Unfortunately, funds have been really tight this year [2023/24], however, this will be prioritised in the new year, for replacement.”

b. Holes in road at junction of Whisterfield Lane and Chapel Lane.
Update: “Unfortunately no available resource at the moment, we will only repair actionable defects collected by our routine safety inspectors.”

c. Broken sign along A535 (near to The Old Cheshire Hunt).
Update: A job has been raised for the sign to be repaired. (No timescale provided)
Sign removed from site.

d. Proposal for double white lines on A535 near to junction with Catchpenny Lane.
Update: Linked to review of A535.

e. Broken post on Parish boundary sign at Salters Lane.
Update: Order placed for replacement post and remounting of sign.

f. Blocked drains/gullies at Trap Street.
Update: “This is still in the system to be checked by our Drainage Team, we are currently working to get through a large back log of drainage and flooding enquiries due to recent weather events. You should receive the system notification when it has been actioned.”

g. Flooding at A535 near junction with Catchpenny Lane.
Update: Gullies vary in the speed they can drain water away and some will overflow during heavy rain even if there is no blockage. This does not necessarily mean the gully requires cleaning. We will not visit overflowing gullies during heavy rainfall unless the water is causing a risk to life or property.

h. Broken sign along A535 (junction warning sign), north of junction with Catchpenny Lane.
Update: This is not a category 1 defect, therefore, will not be repaired immediately. There is currently no budget for non-emergency sign repairs. Sign removed from site.

i. Uprooted street sign (Longshoot Road), at junction of Longshoot Road will A535.
Update: This is not a category 1 defect, therefore will not be repaired immediately. There is currently no budget for non-emergency sign repairs, however, if the damage was the result of a vehicle collision and we could potentially recover the costs and get the signs repairs quicker. Sign straightened by resident during event advertising.

j. Provision of grit bin at Longshoot Road.
Update: Information relating to grit bins is available on Cheshire East Council website.

k. Surplus temporary signage warning of mud at Catchpenny Lane.
Update: No update.

Appendix E

IT and Email Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 Lower Withington Parish Council recognises the importance of effective and secure information technology (IT) and email usage in supporting its business, operations and communications.

1.2 This policy outlines the guidelines and responsibilities for the appropriate use of IT resources and email by council members, employees, volunteers and contractors.

2 Scope

2.1 This policy applies to all individuals who use Lower Withington Parish Council's IT resources, including computers, networks, software, devices, data and email accounts.

3 Acceptable use of IT resources and email

3.1 Lower Withington Parish Council IT resources and email accounts are to be used for official council-related activities and tasks. Limited personal use is permitted, provided it does not interfere with work responsibilities or violate any part of this policy. All users must adhere to ethical standards, respect copyright and intellectual property rights, and avoid accessing inappropriate or offensive content.

4 Device and software usage

4.1 Where possible, authorised devices, software and applications will be provided by Lower Withington Parish Council to employees for the purposes of undertaking work-related tasks.

4.2 Lower Withington Parish Council does not provide computer equipment to councillors but will consider requests by councillors for assistance in training to acquire the necessary skills to execute tasks requiring technology.

5 Data management and security

5.1 All sensitive and confidential Lower Withington Parish Council data should be stored and transmitted securely using approved methods. Regular data backups should be performed to prevent data loss, and secure data destruction methods should be used when necessary.

5.2 Employees and councillors should be mindful of the provisions contained within the Council's policies relating to privacy; subject access; freedom of information and information and data retention and disposal.

6 Email communication

6.1 All employees and councillors are provided with a council email address and must use this for all council business.

6.2 Councillors are reminded that any email sent or received in their capacity as a Parish Councillors is Council data and any emails may have to be disclosed following requests under the Data Protection Act or Freedom of Information Act.

6.3 Councillors must ensure that any personal devices used to access council systems (including email and data) are password protected and access is restricted solely to the member.

6.4 Emails should be professional and respectful in tone. Confidential or sensitive information must not be sent via email unless it is encrypted.

7 Password and account security

7.1 Lower Withington Parish Council email account users are responsible for maintaining the security of their accounts and passwords. Passwords should be strong and not shared with others. Regular password changes are encouraged to enhance security.

7.2 Be cautious with attachments and links to avoid phishing and malware. Verify the source before opening any attachments or clicking on links.

8 Portable devices

8.1 All portable devices which have access to Lower Withington Parish Council email accounts and data must be protected to prevent unauthorised access. This can be by use of passwords, passcodes or other biometric measures as applicable.

8.2 Particular care must be taken when using removable media to transmit data as such media are easily lost or intercepted. Any sensitive information (including personal data, confidential documents or data which could impact on the rights or reputation of any person or organisation including the Council) placed on removable media must be suitably password protected or encrypted.

9 Email monitoring

9.1 Lower Withington Parish Council reserves the right to monitor email communications to ensure compliance with this policy and relevant laws. Monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the Data Protection Act and GDPR.

10 Retention and archiving

10.1 Emails should be retained and archived in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. Regularly review and delete unnecessary emails to maintain and organised inbox.

10.2 Employees and councillors should refer to the Information and data retention and disposal policy when undertaking reviews of stored data.

11 Reporting security incidents

11.1 All councillors, employees or volunteers must report any incidents which could pose a risk to the council's systems or data security to the Clerk without delay. This includes but is not limited to:

- lost devices
- potential risk arising from phishing emails/websites
- passwords having been shared
- unauthorised access to systems.

12 Compliance and consequences

12.1 Breach of this IT and Email Policy may result in the suspension of IT privileges and further consequences as deemed appropriate.

12.2 Unauthorised access, use, destruction, modification and/or distribution of council information, systems or data is prohibited.

13 Policy review

13.1 This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevant and effectiveness. Updates may be made to address emerging technology trends and security measures.

14 Contacts

14.1 For IT related enquiries or assistance users can contact the Clerk.

14.2 All staff and councillors are responsible for the safety and security of Lower Withington Parish Council's IT and email systems. By adhering to this IT and Email Policy, Lower Withington Parish Council aims to create a secure and efficient IT environment that supports its mission and goals.

Appendix F

Biodiversity Policy

1 Introduction

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

1.2 Government guidance clarifies that Parish Councils 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

1.3 A review of this policy and objectives must be undertaken at least every five years.

2 Definition

2.1 According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.

2.2 Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our ecosystems that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area.

3.2 Lower Withington Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

3.3 In particular the Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications
- support the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices when determining Council activities
- encourage and support other organisations within the parish to manage their areas of responsibility with biodiversity in mind
- support residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

4 Actions

4.1 Planning applications

- The Council will:
  - when commenting on planning applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats
  - support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications
  - consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain
  - include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

4.2 Local community

- The Council will:
  - where appropriate, raise local awareness of biodiversity issues
  - where appropriate, engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.

5 Monitoring

5.1 This policy was adopted on 30th June, 2025 and will be reviewed each year at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

5.2 The action plan associated with this policy will also be reviewed on an annual basis.

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Action Plan

Site / Objective	Action	Outcome	Target	Reporting/ publicity
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity	Gain local support for action	Ongoing	Newsletter, website
Public spaces	Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs	Protecting habitats	Ongoing	Newsletter, website
Public spaces	Undertake annual litter pick	Protecting and enhancing habitats	Ongoing	Newsletter, website
The built landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against biodiversity considerations	Protecting and enhancing habitats	Ongoing	Website and Cheshire East Council planning portal

Other example actions for consideration at a future date (this list is not exhaustive):

- Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity to connect and diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species
- Consider additional planting in open spaces to increase diversity of habitats and food sources
- Provide/maintain bird boxes as appropriate
- Identify opportunities to leave leaf litter and dead vegetation as a habitat for invertebrates
- Identify opportunities to leave areas unmown to encourage insects
- Consider opportunities to encourage minimising verge management (other than in areas which may need cutting for highway safety) to protect/enhance habitats
- Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries
- Survey residents to identify biodiversity conservation priorities within the parish
- Discourage the use of floodlights to protect nocturnal animals
- Consider opportunities for seed bombs / bulbs etc to extend habitats
- Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife
- Consider raising local awareness of volunteering opportunities which support biodiversity.