



Minutes of the Biodiversity Working Group 5th September 2024 8pm Winterton Hall, Plaistow.

Attendance Parish Councillors: Sarah Denyer; Sophie Capsey; Jane Price; Plaistow resident Sallie Baker and Jane Bromley Parish Council Clerk

1. **Election of a Chair.** A rolling Chair was decided upon with Sarah Denyer Chairing this meeting.
2. **Welcome and introductions, setting the scene.** Welcome and introductions, setting the scene. The group discussed the [Chichester District Council Biodiversity Aims](#) and objectives for the District and then at a Parish Level the [Parish Council Biodiversity Policy](#) which sets the Aims and Objectives for the group.

The Parish Aims and objectives were commented upon and actions discussed.

Aim	Objective	Biodiversity Working Group Comments
Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)	The Council will ensure that biodiversity is conserved and enhanced within the NDP.	The Southbourne Neighbourhood Plan contained a good example of a policy that could be included in the Plaistow and Ifold NP.
Biodiversity budget	The Council will set an annual budget for projects.	Request budget for the group from the precept from 1 st April 2025
Trustee of Plaistow Playing Field	As Trustee for Plaistow Playing Field the Council to consider:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ providing a margin of uncut grass around the hedges. ○ Allow fallen branches to remain, if safe, for habitat. ○ To preserve the trees and encourage biodiversity in the area, particularly under the Sessile Oak, which will be allowed to naturalise. 	Consider further planting of trees on the Plaistow playing Fields making proper provision for watering. Use the water from water testing at the Pavilion to water new trees.
Community infrastructure	The Council will consider bird and bat boxes for bus shelters and other buildings it owns.	It was thought swallows/swifts had been spotted near the church and nest boxes could be considered in the area.

<p>Promote and encourage biodiversity within the community.</p>	<p>The Council knows that most of the parish's biodiversity is in private ownership (gardens, ponds, streams, woodland, hedges etc). The Council will consider educating, advising, raising awareness, and supporting the community to understand biodiversity and why it's important to conserve and enhance it. The Council will consider the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Include the public and community partners in projects to improve biodiversity. o Feature biodiversity in public communications. o Put information boards in green spaces. o Raise public awareness of how their gardens can support biodiversity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A suggestion that native hedging be supplied to those houses along the Loxwood Rd to screen close boarded fencing on the road side to improve the rural look of the area and to also provide habitat. 2. A digital map of the parish to be placed on the website to encourage those with wild habitat in their gardens to plot the area on the map. 3. Articles would be placed in the Church newsletter, e-newsletter, website, Facebook, on a monthly basis on the subject of Biodiversity. 4. Exhibitions could be set up at village events such as the fete. 5. Biodiversity Day 22nd May 2025. The school to be offered assistance in preparing for this day. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bug hotel formation in the Coxes pond area b) Seed packets for pupils to plant a metre square of wild flower seeds at home and to plot the area on the digital map. c) Practical assistance with the environmental area at the school d) Community orchard trees to be ordered from CDC and offered to the school. 6. Orchard trees to be placed at the entrance to nell ball near the bench. 7. A project was planned for the Ifold Community Garden area on 2nd October from 10.30am
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3. **Signing of the Terms of Reference.**

The Terms were read & signed by attendees.

4. **Discussion on future project and agreeing and organising the first project.**

Ifold Community Area Project 2nd October 24 10.30am.

The area would be cut with shears to avoid cutting down plants that were useful to the area. The debris would be collected and either placed in the on site compost area or else taken away to be usefully disposed of. Bulbs and plant purchased ahead of time would be planted. A notice board would be designed and erected for the site.

5. **Agree a list of meeting actions.**

1. Prepare for working group activity 2nd October 24- Jane Bromley
2. Articles to be written- Jane Price and Jane Bromley
3. Digital Map- Jane Bromley and possible outside IT Assistance.
4. Table at fete and functions- Working Group Members.
5. Prepare for Biodiversity Day 22nd May 24- Sarah Denyer and Jane Bromley
6. Apply for Orchard Trees and a sign for Ifold Community area- Jane Bromley

6. **Date of next meeting.** To be confirmed.

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