

Ash Parish Council

ASH BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. CONSTITUTION

Ash Parish Council hereby resolves to establish a working group of the Council to be known as the Ash Biodiversity Working Group. The Working Group shall have no executive powers other than those specifically delegated in these Terms of Reference.

2. FUNCTION OF THE GROUP

- promote, implement or enable projects within the Parish that contribute to protecting and enhancing local biodiversity;
- provide the Council with recommendations and ideas on ways to protect and enhance the environment;
- record local habitats and species and publish information on local biodiversity;
- raise awareness of biodiversity issues and support community involvement in habitat and species recording and monitoring;
- encourage Parishioners to get involved in conservation work;
- develop, within six months, an initial “Biodiversity Action Plan” for the Parish Council;
- share information, ideas and best practices and see what works for our community;
- liaise with the school, landowners, organisations & charities across the parish and neighbouring parishes to implement biodiversity projects;
- seek funding and resources from outside bodies.

3. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION, MEETINGS AND DECISION MAKING

The Chair of the Working Group will be appointed by a majority vote of the members of the Group. The Group shall consist of a minimum of two Parish Councillors, one of which will act as the official link to the Parish Council.

Up to six members of the public may be appointed to the Group. In addition, the Group may co-opt members of the public with specific experience or expertise in a particular topic for the term of that project.

The Working Group shall meet at least quarterly. Copies of the notes of the meeting shall be circulated to all Members and the Parish Council within 10 workdays. Working Group meetings are not required to be held in public.

The Working Group shall recommend actions/decisions to the Council who will vote on them at the next relevant meeting and feedback accordingly so as not to delay actions unduly. The working party has no budgetary or spending powers. If expenditure of any kind is expected as a consequence of the working party recommendations it must be referred to the Council for approval.

4. REVIEW

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually at the Parish Meeting.