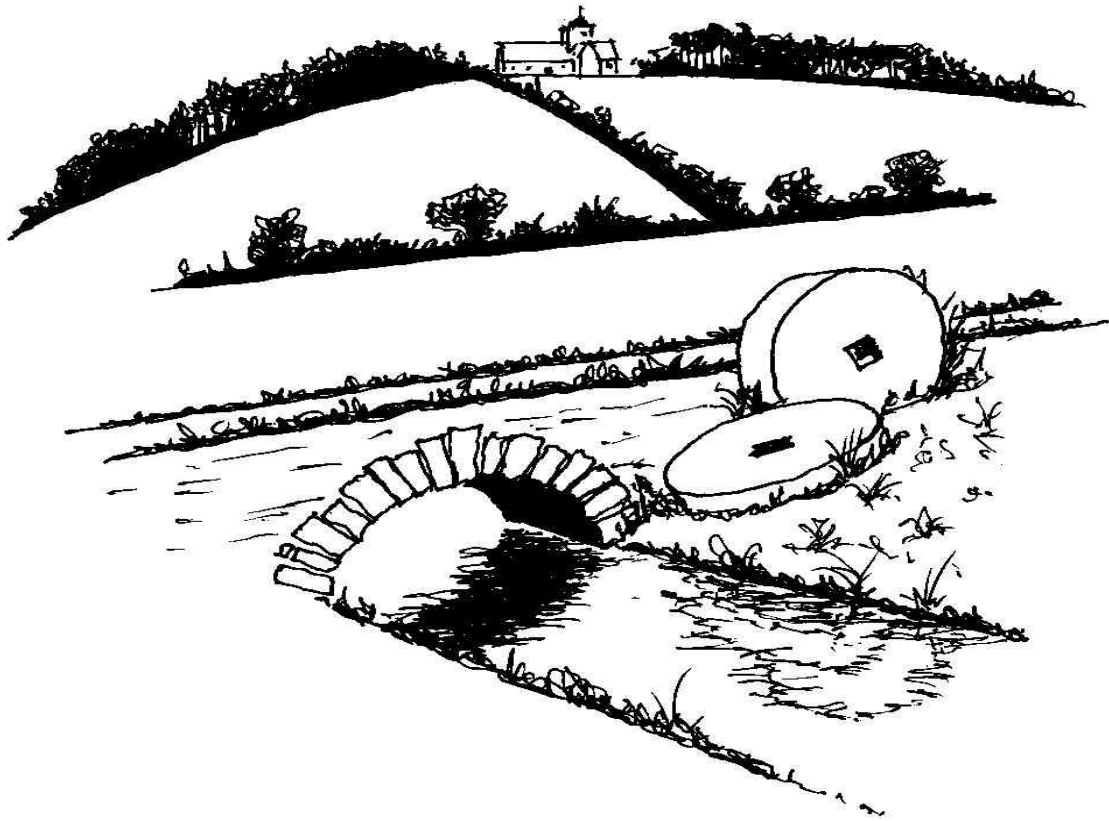


St Martha Parish Council



Bio-Diversity Policy

Version	Date of Adoption	Minute Reference	Review Date	Originator
0.1	19/03/24	24/44	April 2025	PA

St Martha Parish Council Biodiversity Policy

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth. It is widely recognised that we need to be more connected to the natural world for our own survival.

Biodiversity is also important in maintaining the resilience of the services nature provides to us, such as carbon sequestration.

St Martha Parish Council recognises this value and is cognisant of its legal duty to conserve and increase biodiversity and therefore commits to conserve and increase biodiversity wherever possible throughout the Parish of St Martha.

As a Parish Council it will:

- a) Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions it makes.
- b) Particularly with regard to planning, by seeking to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity and identifying opportunities to increase biodiversity when practicable.
- c) Encourage practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity such as sustainable transport, recycling, composting, disposal of waste and reduction of energy use.
- d) Keep SCC informed of biodiversity projects within the Parish.
- e) Work across Parish boundaries on local projects and support other Parishes and Local Authorities to implement wider scale environmental initiatives.
- f) Minimise the consumption of all resources used to cover the work of the Council and consider the lifecycle impact of purchases.
- g) Support the removal of invasive species as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species and avoid the use of herbicides except in exceptional circumstances.
- h) Where possible, scale and time grounds maintenance work, or vegetation removal, so that the impact on biodiversity is minimised.
- i) Maintenance practice beneficial to biodiversity will be taken into consideration when contracts are placed.