

## **Biodiversity Policy.**

Aylburton Parish Council adopted its Biodiversity Policy on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023. The object of this policy is to ensure the council works towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the council's area.

The policy includes a requirement for a summary is to be published annually.

The summary needs to make reference to the biodiversity audit carried out at the time the policy was adopted.

## **Biodiversity Audit *as of December 2023.***

### **Parish Patch**

The only land owned by the council is the Parish Patch at Upper Common, Aylburton. This is a c 700 sq. metre field currently let as an agricultural tenancy to a shepherd. The field of rough grazing is fenced and has a tree and hedge border. The field contains an assortment of waste items which have accumulated over the years.

### **Upper Common Village Green**

The council manages the Upper Common Village Green. This is a mixture of recreational mown grassland and woodland (planted c.2000). This is mown low x2 pcm March to October

### **Verges**

The council has an informal Service Level Agreement (SLA) with GCC Highways to manage the roadside verges on the A48 approaches to the village and in the High Street, Church Road, Chapel Hill.

The smaller verges in the centre of the village and in side roads are mown low x2 pcm from March-October.

The larger verges on the A48 approach to the village are managed for biodiversity and consequently have a different mowing regime. These are mown low x2 pcm (early spring and late summer). The cuttings are raked off after each mow by volunteers from the Friends of Aylburton Wildlife (FAW) - a

local group working to improve biodiversity in the village. The perimeters (and a footpath through the largest of these biodiversity verges) are mown x2 pcm March-October. The council has occasionally supplied wildflower plug plants for these verges, which are planted by FAW.

The verges mown for biodiversity are:

Taurus Crafts, Stockwell Lane/A48 junction, A48 Steep Bank, Sandford Road Junction.

Other verges in the village are the responsibility of Two Rivers Housing e.g. those in and around Millbrook Green, Stockwell Lane, Milling Crescent.

### **Weeding**

The council has an informal weeding SLA with the Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC). For the last two years the council has paid for weeding to be done by hand (previously sprayed with pesticide).

### **Aylburton Memorial Hall and Playing Field**

These are managed by a separate trust.

The parish council has undertaken to weed the pavement running alongside the Memorial Hall.

### **Litter**

The council has an SLA with FoDDC for litter picking in the village and receives £1,291.50 pa. Village litter picking is carried out by volunteers.

## December 2024 Summary

**Parish Patch** – no change

**Upper Common Village Green** – the council decided to set aside a small area of the Village Green to be managed for biodiversity. (c. 140 sq.m). This area is scythed and raked by FAW who also planted c.100 wildflower plug plants (supplied by the council) in the spring. A survey was not undertaken, but a range of grasses and wildflowers grew, flowered and seeded on the patch, which otherwise would have been mown short.

**Verges** - Biodiversity management has continued. The most obvious results being the slow but steady increase in species (both wildflowers and insects) found on the Taurus and Stockwell Lane Junction verges. Classes from Aylburton Primary School visited the Taurus verge in the summer.



**Weeding** - The council has continued to support the weeding of the village pavements in the village centre by hand. Now carried out by a volunteer. This avoids any potentially harmful effects to the environment which might result from the use of pesticides.



Milling Crescent

**Aylburton Memorial Hall and Playing Field** – no change

**Litter** – no change.

Mark Topping 25/11/2024