

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**BIO DIVERSITY TASK GROUP**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Bio Diversity Task Group held on Monday,
18th December, 2023 at 4.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

PRESENT: Councillor M de Whalley (Chair)
Councillors M Bartrum, A Bullen and S Dark

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P Kunes

1 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dark be appointed as Vice-Chair

2 **MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34**

None

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

4 **URGENT BUSINESS**

None

5 **PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Assistant Director S Ashworth introduced Claire Wiggs, Senior Ecologist to the Task Group. He explained the background to the Group which had arisen following a Notice of Motion to Council in September 2020, and recommendations from the Urban Wildlife Group in 2022 and consideration of the Council's requirements under the Environment Act 2021 which required that public authorities who operated in England, including councils and local planning authorities, must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England.

The Task Group considered the draft Terms of Reference. Councillor Bullen encouraged that the Council should not do only what was required of it, but aspire to do above what was required of it. He reminded members that the Urban Wildlife Groups recommendations were beyond bio diversity.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference be noted.

6

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director, S Ashworth had prepared a draft workplan for the Task Group to consider. The next meeting was to consider the recommendations of the Urban Wildlife Informal Working Group which had been referred to this group for consideration and incorporation wherever possible and consideration as to how to signpost and share the information with communities and businesses. The communications process was to be considered and discussed.

Councillor Bullen urged speed of consideration as the 2024 bird breeding season would be starting in a few weeks time.

Councillor Dark asked for an overview of the requirements of the Council's under the legislation on the subject. He also suggested that wherever work was being done by partner organisations that they be tapped into to ensure it could be dove tailed. Suggestions were made of Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and others. It was agreed to share contacts for relevant organisations/ and or Groups with officers. He also suggested that care had to be taken not to delay the recommendations coming out of the Group, but also that some may require budgetary allocation which may take some time to receive funding.

It was noted that there would be information given to the group on each matter as it was considered.

RESOLVED: That the work programme be agreed.

7

FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: It was agreed that future meetings be scheduled at around 6 weekly intervals and dates brought to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm