

Breage Parish Council



Environmental Policy

Adopted at the Parish Council Meeting 02 December 2025

Signed.....

Chair Cllr A.E. Woodhams

1. Policy Statement

Breage Parish Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the local environment for current and future generations. This policy outlines our approach to environmental stewardship in line with UK legislation, particularly the **Environment Act 2021**, and reflects our responsibilities in managing playgrounds, amenity areas, and the cemetery.

2. Legal Framework

This policy complies with:

- **Environment Act 2021** – including statutory targets for air quality, biodiversity, water, and waste reduction.
- **Environmental Protection Act 1990**
- **Health & Safety at Work Act 1974**
- **Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 & 1984**
- **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999**
- **Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986**
- **Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013**

3. Aims and Objectives

Breage Parish Council aims to:

- Minimise the environmental impact of its operations.
- Enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- Promote sustainable practices in procurement and maintenance.
- Engage the community in environmental initiatives.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation.

4. Environmental Commitments

4.1 Playgrounds and Amenity Areas

- Conduct **weekly visual inspections** and **annual independent safety inspections** of playgrounds.
- Use **sustainable materials** for repairs and upgrades.
- Maintain green spaces with **native planting schemes** to support biodiversity.
- Avoid the use of harmful pesticides and promote organic alternatives.
- Ensure waste bins are available and emptied regularly.
- Encourage recycling and reduce single-use plastics in public areas.

4.2 Cemetery

- Maintain the cemetery with minimal environmental impact.
- Use **eco-friendly landscaping practices**, including reduced chemical use.
- Promote biodiversity through planting native trees and shrubs.
- Ensure water conservation measures are in place (e.g., rainwater harvesting where feasible).
- Conduct **annual health and safety inspections** and **memorial safety checks every four years**.

5. Climate Action and Carbon Reduction

- Monitor and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- Transition to **energy-efficient lighting** and **electric or low-emission vehicles** where applicable.
- Encourage walking and cycling through improved access to green spaces.
- Support local climate initiatives and tree planting schemes.

6. Sustainable Procurement

- Prioritise suppliers with strong environmental credentials.
- Source materials locally to reduce transport emissions.
- Avoid products with non-recyclable or excessive packaging.

7. Community Engagement

- Promote environmental awareness through local events and communications.
- Support volunteer groups in conservation and clean-up activities.
- Encourage residents to participate in biodiversity and sustainability projects.

8. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed **annually** or in response to significant legislative changes.
- Progress will be reported to the Council and made available to the public.
- Inspection records will be retained for **at least 21 years** in line with best practice.