

## **Nature and Environment Report, October 2023**

Cllr Elli Bate

### Maintenance of Freshford Cemetery

As agreed at the June PC meeting, a trial has taken place with a group of volunteers contributing to the maintenance of the cemetery (as per the attached plan). James Lock (contractor) has been consulted and has agreed to tailor his work accordingly.

Cllr Bate is only aware of positive feedback from villagers regarding the appearance of the cemetery, and the new maintenance regime will deliver improvements for local biodiversity, including rare orchids now growing in the unmown areas. The cemetery looks cared for and well-maintained; many thanks to Loulou Brouard, Paul Judd and other villagers who are volunteering their time to keep it that way.

If other councillors have not received complaints, then it is proposed that a vote should be taken to introduce the new maintenance regime permanently until further notice.

### Dark skies policy - update

I am working on a draft policy for the PC and will bring to the November meeting for review.