

Appendix A

Motion proposed by Cllr Ruth Dixon considered by the Parish Council at its meeting on Tuesday 11th June 2019:

State of Climate Emergency Motion

Hennock Parish Council notes:

1. That the impact of climate breakdown is already causing serious damage around the world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report in October 2018 called the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C,' which confirmed the following with high confidence:
 - a. we have caused a 1°C rise in global temperature.
 - b. the difference between the impacts of global warming of 2°C and 1.5°C is much greater than previously thought, we are currently heading for a catastrophic 3°C
 - c. we are running out of time, and need to get to Zero Carbon emissions within 12 years to regain control
2. That the IPCC report;
 - a. describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and
 - b. confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
3. That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local government should not wait for national government to change policies;
4. That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;
and
5. That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

Hennock Parish Council therefore commits to:

Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action. This means;

1. Making the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 by measuring , managing e & reducing the carbon footprint of the Council and its management of local infrastructure
2. Achieving 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030
3. Ensuring that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.
4. Ensuring that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the actions the council will take to address this emergency
5. Supporting and working with all other relevant organisations and community groups towards making the entire area zero carbon within the same timescale.

6. Including responsibility for achieving zero carbon as rapidly as possible in the parish plan, together with budget actions and a measured baseline.
7. Taking action on related environmental issues such as, waste disposal; litter; use of plastic; use of water resources, preservation and planting of trees and hedgerows and support to wildlife.
8. Establishing a Climate Emergency working group/task force to develop and take forward plans
9. Proactively including young people in the working group/task force to ensure that they have a voice in shaping the future;
10. Seeking funding to establish a fund to 'support green initiatives' in the community
11. Working with other parish and town council and supporting the development of a parish councils climate emergency network
12. Calling on the UK Government to provide local communities the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and asking local MPs to do likewise;
13. Ensuring there is information on the Climate Emergency on the Parish Council website, notice boards and in newsletters including a statement of the Councils policy, action and progress.

Background and some ideas – for Discussion

What do Parish Councils do?

According to NALC, Parish & Town Councils have 3 roles:

- Executive (the democratic power to decide on behalf of the Parish – e.g. allocation of local funding, manage local assets)
- Representative (Representing local interests with regard to Planning Applications, Local/ County/ National Government Consultations)
- Promotional (Influencing higher levels of Government with regard to issues affecting Parishioners & the local community)
- Parish Councils are owners/ asset managers for local community assets such as
 - Parks & recreation areas/ sports facilities,
 - Public buildings and facilities,
 - Footpaths,
 - Infrastructure such as street lighting, community information boards, flags & signage

There is action on the climate emergency that can be taken by the parish council in many areas including:

1. Development and Planning.
 - a. Demand zero carbon standards are adopted in future development via Neighbourhood plans
 - b. Neighbourhood plans should define land use for their area and include provision for Clean Energy Schemes
 - c. Housing developments should be small scale, to protect green field sites and the highest possible ecological design standards should apply. This should apply to new developments and to applications for extensions etc. A Joseph Rowntree report from 2015 suggested that 'Improving energy efficiency to zero-carbon levels could cost an estimated 2.5 to 12.9 per cent per dwelling onsite. Depending on dwelling type, this equates to onsite costs of around

£35 to £60 per m² for simple building fabric solutions or around £110 to £160 per m² for more significant fabric solutions. Offsetting through ‘allowable solutions’ (reducing carbon emissions in other places rather than all on one site) would reduce this cost.’ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/building-sustainable-homes>

- d. The parish council should demand PPS1/ Merton Rule standards of high energy efficiency & 10% renewable energy standards are met in planning applications (The Merton Rule is named after the council in the United Kingdom that in 2003 adopted the first prescriptive planning policy that required new commercial buildings over 1,000 square meters to generate at least 10% of their energy needs using on site renewable energy equipment)
- e. The parish council should take steps to reduce the carbon footprint of Council activities & infrastructure e.g. Replace broken streetlights with lowest energy equivalents
- f. The parish council should lobby for revisions to Building Regulations & National Planning Policy that support carbon reduction.

2. Allotments and Gardening

- a. Continue to support people in the community who use or want to use allotments
- b. Support to gardening clubs
- c. Ask Allotment associations, allotment holders and gardeners to consider sustainable growing, recycling and reduction in use of plastics (particularly black plant pots) elimination of use of peat based composts
- d. Consider the development of sustainable water use for the allotments such as rainwater catchment

3. Energy

- a. Promote electric vehicle infrastructure and electric buses and taxis
- b. Support development/use of household renewable energy
- c. Support measures to address fuel poverty
- d. Seek alternatives to private car usage
- e. Supporting village halls and other local community buildings to reduce reliance on fossil fuels for heating

4. Protect and enhance wildlife

- a. Protect trees and hedges and promote planting of trees in and around the parish
- b. Work with the Wildlife Trust and Dartmoor National Park on preserving and enhancing the natural environment

5. Waste

- a. Campaign for reduction in waste and use of landfill
- b. Monitor Landfill
- c. Run a anti-litter campaign for the parish – e.g. ‘Love my Parish - Adopt a Lane’ scheme and offer co-ordination of volunteers for field walking to clear fields, wood, hedges and watercourses of litter particularly plastics

- d. Promote upcycling & “men in sheds”
- 6. Playparks
 - a. Maintenance and renewal of the playparks should be done in line with the Councils Zero Carbon targets.
- 7. Working Group / Task Force
 - a. Ask a Councillor to set this up
 - b. Look for local expertise to support
 - c. Involve young people
- 8. Emergency Planning for Extreme Weather Events
 - a. Ensure Website contacts
 - b. Build/participate in resilience network

What can we do as individuals?

Show individual climate leadership & take the ‘10 Climate Pledges’ to reduce your carbon footprint & share on the Parish website <http://climatevision.co.uk/top-ten-pledges>

References

1. The IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C:
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>
2. World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>
3. UK city Bristol: <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/united-kingdom-bristol-city-council-declares-a-climateemergency/>