Hildersham Parish Council

Declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency

Hildersham Parish Council recognises that climate change and biodiversity loss represent the greatest long-term threats to the wellbeing, prosperity, health and environment of our community, future generations, and the wider world. Scientific evidence demonstrates that human activities are causing global temperatures to rise, leading to more frequent and severe weather events, increased flood risk, habitat loss, pressures on agriculture, and threats to public health and local economies. These impacts are already being experienced across the United Kingdom and will continue to affect rural communities such as Hildersham.

Hildersham Parish Council therefore declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency and commits to taking meaningful action, within its powers and resources, to support the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient and nature-rich future.

The Council resolves to:

1. **Acknowledge the Emergency**

    - Formally recognise the climate and ecological emergency and its implications for Hildersham Parish and future generations.

2. **Work Towards Net Zero**

    - Seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from Parish Council for activities and operations as far as practicable

    - Support national and local ambitions to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

3. **Protect and Enhance Nature**

    - Promote biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration within the parish.

    - Encourage the planting of native trees, wildflowers, and hedgerows where appropriate.

    - Support measures that improve ecological connectivity and wildlife habitats.

4. **Embed Climate Considerations into Decision-Making**

    - Consider the environmental and climate impacts of all council policies, projects, and decisions.

    - Encourage sustainable procurement and environmentally responsible practices.

5. **Support Community Action**

- Engage with residents, community groups, businesses, schools, and neighbouring councils to raise awareness of climate and environmental issues.

- Encourage local initiatives that reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, promote sustainable transport, and strengthen community resilience.

6. **Promote Sustainable Development**

- Support planning and development that contribute positively to climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity enhancement.

- Encourage ambitious standards of energy efficiency and sustainable design in new developments.

7. Take a proportionate approach to climate action

- Consider practical and achievable opportunities to address climate change within the Parish Council's existing responsibilities and resources.

- Review progress periodically through the Council's existing arrangements, and consider whether any further actions are appropriate and practicable.

8. Work in Partnership

- Collaborate with district, county and national government, environmental organisations, local businesses, and community groups to maximise opportunities for climate action and ecological recovery.

Statement of Intent

Hildersham Parish Council recognises that it cannot address climate change and biodiversity loss alone. However, by demonstrating leadership, supporting local initiatives, and integrating sustainability into its decision-making, the Council can play a significant role in helping to safeguard the environment, strengthen community resilience and create a healthier, more sustainable future for everyone in Hildersham.

Declaration

Hildersham Parish Council hereby declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency and commits to taking proportionate, practical, and measurable actions to reduce carbon emissions, adapt to climate impacts, protect biodiversity, and support a sustainable future for the parish and future generations.

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