



Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council

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Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference – Adopted 18th February 2021

1. Background

- 1.1 Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council will embed climate change risks and adaptation measures into their plans and policies and the way they carry out their business, to support Local Climate Change and Emergency. This working group has been created by the Council to ensure that its Climate Emergency Declaration becomes integral to all relevant activities of the Council.
- 1.2 The Parish Council at its meeting on 17th December 2020 resolved to;
 - a. Acknowledge and accept the findings of the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C;
 - b. Acknowledge progress made to date by the Parish Council in mitigating and adapting to climate change;
 - c. Declare a 'Climate Emergency' to align with the declaration made by Doncaster Council in September 2019;
 - d. Set up a Climate Change Working Group who will investigate the development of action points and pledges to integrate with the Parish Council Action Plan. This group will make recommendations to Full Council.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The principal objective of the working group is to investigate the development of action points and pledges to integrate with the Parish Council Action Plan.
- 2.2 In addition, the specific objectives are as follows:
 - To establish ideas of what the Parish Council can achieve to ensure local commitments and actions are implemented, to reduce carbon emission and build resilience to the changing climate.
 - Assess the risks of a changing climate and embed adaption into it's the Council's core activities.
 - Collect information and report on the Group's progress
 - To consider parish wide activity to promote awareness of the climate emergency and encourage actions to reduce carbon emissions.

3. Membership

- 3.1 The Group shall consist of up to six Councillors appointed at the Parish

Council on 21st January 2021 and thereafter at the annual meeting of the Parish Council in May 2021.

- 3.2 The Clerk to the Council (and Deputy in their absence) will also attend meetings of the working group to advise on Parish Council policy and procedure.
- 3.3 All other members of the Council have the right to attend the meeting and make representations on the matters being discussed.
- 3.4 No members of the public can be appointed by the Group. It is a closed Parish Council Working Group.
- 3.5 The Group will elect a Chair from Councillor Members at its first meeting.
- 3.6 The Quorum for a meeting will be a minimum of two Councillor Members.
- 3.7 All members of the working group are expected to represent the interests of the whole Parish Council area.
- 3.8 Written minutes will be taken to record the working groups decisions and will be received at the next Full Council meeting and tabled as an appendix. The Clerk/ Deputy Clerk will be responsible for arranging the recording and distribution of the minutes.

4. Meetings

- 4.1 The Group will meet as necessary and will report back to full Council at every available opportunity. The Clerk will arrange the meetings of the working group.

5. Rules & Regulations

- The Councillors' Code of Conduct will apply to all members of the Group.
- The conduct of meetings will be governed by the Council's adopted standing orders.
- Decisions will be determined by majority vote.

6. Responsibilities

- 6.1 The Working Group has been set up as part of the Council's response to declaring a climate emergency and all responsibilities are focussed on determining achievable changes to the Council's activities as far as is practicable and proportionate. All recommendations to be in line with the powers available to the Council and to be of benefit to the communities of the parish area.
- 6.2 The Working Group is not a campaigning or political group.
- 6.3 The Working Group has delegated authority from the Council to work with the Clerk, as appropriate, to fulfil the following responsibilities: -
 - Recommending to Full Council the measures it considers necessary to be considered in order to respond to the Council's declaration that a Climate Emergency exists

- Recommending to any relevant committee, the measures it considers necessary to be considered in order to respond to the Council's declaration that a Climate Emergency exists
- Researching available data and information on relevant climate emergency impacts and response measures
- Exploring options for measures which might ameliorate climate impacts and provide environmental benefits in line with, for example, the Council's existing duty to consider biodiversity in relation to relevant decisions
- Sending a representative to observe/advise other Committees on relevant matters
- Make recommendations on responses to any consultations on significant policy matters directly affecting the parish, as appropriate.

6.4 In relation to the Parish Council's Climate Emergency Declaration, this working groups actions shall include the following:

- Recommending and reviewing related actions by the Council and relevant Committees
- Exploring and researching measures to ameliorate climate impacts and optimise beneficial natural environments
- Recommending responses on any significant policy consultations directly affecting the parish.
- Considering any climate emergency action by local groups and public service providers which might assist the Council's climate emergency activities
- Liaising with any Climate Action Groups supported by the Council