

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THURSTON CLIMATE AWARENESS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Authority:

The Climate Awareness and Environment Committee is appointed by, and solely responsible to Thurston Parish Council. The Committee's duties are defined and agreed by Full Council, which may vote, at any time, to modify the Committee's powers.

Membership:

The Committee will consist of no fewer than five Parish Councillors and will elect a Chairman to preside over each and future meetings. Any member of the Committee can preside by agreement in the Chairman's absence. A quorum will be a minimum of three members. The Chairman of the Parish Council will have automatic membership and full voting rights.

Records of Proceedings:

The committee will prepare recommendations which will be circulated to all Councillors and taken to full Council. The Parish Clerk will ensure all Clerking duties are available for the committee to function. Written minutes will be taken to record the Committee's decisions and will be received at the next full Council Committee Meeting and tabled as an appendix.

All meetings will be open to the public, except for confidential matters.

The Committee may invite other parties to attend and to contribute to meetings as it decides.

The Council's Standing Orders on the rules of debate (except those relating to standing and to speaking more than once) and the Standing Order on interest of members in contracts and other matters will apply to this committee.

Meetings to be held on a monthly basis or as required and at least a week before Council's monthly committee meetings to allow any recommendations to be promptly considered.

If the numbers of the Councillors present (not including those debarred by reason of a declared interest) falls below the required quorum the meeting shall be adjourned, and any such business not transacted shall be transacted at the next meeting or on such other day as the Chairman shall arrange.

Responsibilities:

Thurston Parish Council has affirmed that it is committed to tackling the Climate Crisis, to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and to the preservation of the environment.

The committee will:

- Recommend to full Council the measures it considers necessary to be considered in order to enable the Council to respond to its position on the Climate Crisis
- Enable collaborative working across the Council and engagement with individuals, community groups and businesses as well as other partners in the district including young people.
- Investigate steps that may be taken by the Council and by residents and businesses to help all work together to achieve the County's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon status by 2030 and the parish council's commitment to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and to the preservation of the environment
- Research available data and information on relevant climate emergency impacts and make recommendations that would help to achieve the Council's climate and ecological objectives
- Identify and explore support from Central and Local Government in terms of funding, additional powers and policy changes which are needed to achieve climate and ecological objectives.
- Make recommendations to Council on responses to any consultations on significant policy matters that directly affect Thurston
- Liaise with any Climate Action Groups supported by the Parish Council.