

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL
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Agenda Item 13 – To consider resolving to support the Climate and Ecology Bill campaigned for by Zero Hour.

The email below was received by council with a request for you to support them and a draft of a motion and resolution they would like you to consider passing.

Any resolution in line with their suggestion means that you

- support the Climate and Ecology Bill
- are happy to inform local residents and press of your decision to support.
- Write to Jo Churchill to inform her that you have passed this resolution and urge her to sign up to support the bill
- Write to Zero Hour expressing your support.

From: Zero Hour <allangray@zerohour.uk>

Sent: 18 October 2023 15:11

To: Thurston Parish Council <info@thurstonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: Thurston Parish Council support for Climate and Ecology Bill

Dear Mrs Waples

I'm writing on behalf of Zero Hour and seeking Thurston Parish Council support for the Climate and Ecology Bill, which is due for its second reading on 24 November.

We recognise that parish and town councils are influential organisations, with links to the local community, regional charities and civic bodies. Thurston Parish Council is on the front line when it comes to protecting the places and communities we love and cherish.

We are writing to ask your council to join the 168 parish & town councils across the UK to support the Climate and Ecology Bill and add your voice to those organisations calling for joined-up action that provides an adequate, commensurate response to the emergency of our natural world, our parks, villages and towns, our landscapes and wildlife.

We have a draft motion, which you may find useful. If Thurston Parish Council is supportive, we are asking that after the motion is passed, Thurston Parish Council issues a press release that it has done so and writes and requests your MP(s) to also publicly support the CE Bill (if they are one of the 130 that have already done so, please write and thank them for being supporters).

The Climate and Ecology Bill, if made law, would ensure that:

- The threat facing nature is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis in a joined-up approach.

- The Paris Agreement is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement - 1.5°C.

- The UK takes full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume)-

- The government deliver a climate and nature assembly that is representative of the UK population, working directly with the Government and Parliament to ensure that all voices are heard and that no one is left behind.

A member of Zero Hour, the campaign for the CE Bill would be happy to (virtually) attend a pre-Council meeting and answer questions about the proposed legislation if that would be helpful. More information about the CE Bill and supporting organisations can be found at <https://www.zerohour.uk/>; this [2-minute video](#) or a [15-minute presentation](#) may also prove useful. If you have any questions or require further information about the CE Bill, please do get in touch.

*Thank you on behalf of Zero Hour,
If you need any additional information or wish to have a follow-up call, feel free to reach out.*

Allan and Zero Hour Team

Climate & Ecology Bill motion

(Last Updated 20/10/23)

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and across the world. The average global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In addition, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Climate change remains a major concern for UK voters with 66% of people (according to YouGov) expressing they are 'worried about climate change and its effects'. Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough's *Save Our Wild Isles* initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at a terrifying speed.

Climate & Ecology Bill

The Climate & Ecology Bill, a private member's bill currently before the House of Commons, seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest science, the CE Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was goal agreed to at COP15, via the *Kunming-Montreal Framework* (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon

budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the *Paris Agreement* (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

[Council] notes that:

The Climate and Ecology Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. The Bill is backed by **[180]** cross-party MPs and Peers, **[237]** local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; NGOs, such as the Wildlife Trusts, the Doctors' Association, Oxfam, the W.I. and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank, Riverford and The Body Shop; and 42,000 members of the public.

The CE Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, and require a plan that considers both together;
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations;
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative *Climate & Nature Assembly*, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.

[Council] therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to **[local MPs' names]** to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill—or thank them for already doing so;
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing **[Council]**'s support (councils@zerohour.uk).

