

East Harptree Parish Council
Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG)
Terms of Reference

1. Background

The recent 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on Climate Change states that we have already caused a 1°C rise in global temperature. The difference between the impacts of global warming of 2°C and 1.5°C is much greater than previously thought and we are currently heading for a catastrophic 3°C rise. We are running out of time and need to get to Zero Carbon emissions by 2030.

Growing numbers of parish, town and district councils are declaring a Climate Emergency. This is a genuine commitment to work towards a specific measurable target. It might seem that a Parish Council can't really do much, but...

Climate change is relevant to many of our activities, creating green spaces in our communities, working to improve public transport, providing feedback on wider council strategies for transport, housing and wellbeing, as well as specific feedback on planning applications. This proposal provides justification to treat climate change as a factor in future decision making for our Parish Council.

All levels of government national, regional and local, have a duty to secure our community from the negative impacts of climate breakdown. Local government should not wait for national government to change their policies.

East Harptree Parish Council declared a climate emergency on 17th September 2019

2. Purpose of Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG).

The working group has been formed to:

- Inform and advise East Harptree Parish Council about opportunities for local action to promote resilience to the effects of climate change.
- Prepare a draft Strategy for Action, to be submitted to East Harptree Parish Council for consideration.
- Coordinate action towards making East Harptree a sustainable community, by making East Harptree parish carbon neutral and working to reverse nature loss.
- Set targets and measure progress against that goal.
- Work with other organisations towards the same aims in wider or separate areas.

3. Reporting

The group will report to East Harptree Parish Council.

4. Status and responsibilities

The CEWG is a working group of East Harptree Parish Council. It will act in an advisory capacity to the Parish Council. It has no powers to commit the Parish Council to spending and does not hold decision making powers. The CEWG may liaise with other Parish Councils, consult with other organisations and seek expert advice.

The final version of the Terms of Reference shall be approved by the Parish Council

5. Time

The CEWG will be constituted for an initial period of 1 year. This period may be extended by the Parish Council for an agreed period.

6. Membership

The CEWG will include representatives of the Parish Council. Additional members may be co-opted and/or other interested individuals in the village may be invited to contribute skills and expertise.

- The minimum number of CEWG members will be 6 to include at least two Parish Councillors. In addition, the Parish Council chairman is an ex-officio member.
- Quorum will be three and the group must use their best endeavours to ensure at least one Parish Councillor is in attendance
- The group will appoint a chair and a secretary.
- The membership will be approved by the Parish Council.

7. Meetings

The CEWG shall regulate its own business and procedures. Notes of each meeting should be kept and a monthly report including any recommendations given to the Parish Council in writing. Such reports will be filed in the Parish Council minute book for future reference.

The meeting schedule will be set by the CEWG as required.

8. Conflicts of interest

All members of the group who have a prejudicial interest in a matter on the agenda must declare that interest at the start of the meeting. If the interest is of significant pecuniary value to themselves or the organisation they represent, they must absent themselves from the room for discussion of that item and not vote on that matter.

9. Expenses

The group has no budget, and reimbursement for the members' time will not be made. Food and drink expenses will not be reimbursed. The group may apply to the Parish Council for reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of the working group's work. A recommendation should be made to the Parish Council as to expenses for inclusion in the council's annual budget.

Adopted 17th December 2019