**Climate Change Proposal** PAPER 4

Resolution for Ide Parish Council meeting on 20 March 2019

The recent 2018 IPCC report on Climate Change [1, 2] 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.

The need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible is so clear even a school child can see it. In fact they do. The recent protests by school children are putting national governments to shame. We must remember who has the most to gain or lose from decisions we make now.

Growing numbers of parish, town and county councils are declaring a Climate Emergency [3, 4]. This is a non binding commitment partly symbolic, but is a genuine commitment to work towards a specific measurable target. It might seem that a Parish Council can't really do much, but by declaring a climate emergency as policy we could...

start by acknowledging the problem, and accepting that action is needed.

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

This could also be a route for getting help with some projects if they are in the context of working towards a carbon neutral community.

We can help to break the 'crowd mentality' where no-one steps into action because we all think someone else is better able to act. If other councils and governments see communities and councils stepping up, it becomes easier to join them.

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.

If school children can put national government to shame over their response to climate change and specifically the IPCC report, then surely so can parish councils.

So I propose that we:

Join other councils in declaring a Climate Emergency.

Report to our Parish Council in 2 months with a specific proposal.

The proposal should include a measurable target, and actions the Council and community can take to achieve the target.

Andy Swain, Parish Councillor, Ide

References.

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[1] The IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5⁰C: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

[2] World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>

[3] <https://inews.co.uk/news/environment/climate-emergency-declaration-councils-green-party-un-report/>

[4] Oxford <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/united-kingdom-oxford-city-council-unanimously-backs-climate-emergency-motion/>