**Ide Parish Council**

**Climate Emergency Working Group**

**Terms of Reference**

**For Approval by Ide Parish Council on 10 July 2019**

v.1 Andy Swain 28 May 2019

v.6 Andy Swain 2 July 2019

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 county 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 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.

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.

Ide Parish Council (PC) declared a climate emergency on 20th March 2019.

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

The working group has been formed to:

* Coordinate action towards making Ide a sustainable community, by making Ide Carbon neutral and working to stop 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 every Parish Council meeting. These are held six times a year on the third Wednesday of each uneven month in Ide Village Hall.

4. **Status and responsibilities**

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

The final version of the Terms of Reference shall be subject to approval by the Parish Council at a full PC meeting

**5. Time**

The CEWG will be constituted for an initial period of 2 years. This period may be extended by the Parish Council at a full PC meeting.

6. **Membership**

The CEWG will be formed of representatives of the parish council. Additional members may be co-opted from other interested individuals in the village.

Maximum total number 10.

At least one Parish Councillor.

Quorum will be three.

The group will appoint a chair and a secretary.

The membership will be approved by the Parish Council.

7. **Meetings**

Meetings need not be open to the public or have published agendas or minutes, as this is not a formal committee; but it is good practice to keep records. Meetings will be held after 6pm, two monthly, location as agreed. Agenda will be published 3 clear days in advance and minutes will be published on the village website.

8. **Conflicts of interest**

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 PC for reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of the working group’s work.