



Council Offices, Dungeon Brow, Market Street, Hayfield, High Peak, SK22 2EP

Tel. 01663 744550. Email: clerk@hayfield-pc.gov.uk

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20 OF HAYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WORKING GROUP

1. Introduction

1.1 This report summarises the first year's work of the Council's Climate Emergency Working Group.

1.2 The Working Group was established by Hayfield Parish Council after it had declared a climate emergency in April 2020 and resolved to 'examine how the Council's policies and practices could be made more climate-change friendly'. The Group, comprising three members of the Council and representatives from Sustainable Hayfield, first met the following month and has met monthly since.

1.3 Terms of reference for the Group were agreed, and ratified by the Council. Cllr Mick Conway assumed the role of Chair of the Group, which is serviced by Andy Barker, Parish Council Clerk.

2. The Work of The Group

2.1 The Group has spent part of each meeting considering aspects of the Parish Council's activities. Analysis from the Parish Council minutes from the preceding year, 2018-19, suggested a clustering of activities as follows:

1. The Parish Council occupies a building, organises meetings, liaises with residents, groups, contractors and official bodies and produces promotional material;
2. The Council employs staff;
3. The Council owns/leases/maintains land/street furniture;
4. The Council contracts with suppliers for purchase of plants and wider maintenance;
5. The Council commissions building and restoration works;

6. The Council pays insurance, fees, subscriptions and seeks professional advice;
7. The Council financially supports and organises events in the parish;
8. The Council has funded services (e.g. community defibrillators) to meet residents and visitors' emergency needs.

2.2 The Group has, in relation to almost all of these areas of activity, considered what potential there is to reduce the Council's carbon footprint or otherwise engage in more sustainable practices. This has resulted in a raft of agreed actions, some of which are within the discretion of the Council Clerk to initiate and others which require the approval of the Council as a body via resolution.

2.3 The Group is committed to borrow – and share its own – experience with others, to promote wider best practice. To date, it has used material from New Mills Town Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Helston Town Council and environmental groups to inform its deliberations. It has shared its own materials with several peer councils (e.g. Tideswell, Grindleford) on request. Group members have attended a Carbon Literacy course and, by invitation, High Peak Borough Council's 'Climate Change Summit'. At the Group's instigation, the Parish Council has also written to Derbyshire County Council's Leader, advising of its work. The Parish Council's profile has probably been enhanced by these activities. It has now been invited to be a member of a DALC-led 'super group', focussed on this agenda.

2.4 The proceedings of each of the Group's meetings, and the associated Progress Chart (see Annex A) detailing actions taken and planned, are now submitted to all Parish Councillors in advance of the Council's monthly meetings. Regular verbal feedback to the Council is also made by Councillors serving on the Working Group.

2.5 It is recognised that the Parish Council's size, and its responsibilities, mean that it has a modest carbon footprint. Even so, a range of activities have been taken to reduce this further. These are summarised in Annex A to this report.

2.6 The Group has succeeded, via Sustainable Hayfield, in obtaining free time from the Government's Statistical Service to assist with measuring scope to reduce the Council's carbon footprint, and that of the wider parish. This work, likely to be concluded summer 2020, will probably inform the Working Group's future activities.

2.7 It is anticipated, Covid-19 permitting, that in the next year the Group's focus will be on:

- * revisiting action areas previously considered, for their potential to augment and embed commitments made;

- * acknowledging scope for further carbon-reducing actions arising out the work commissioned from the Government Statistical Service's analysts working with us;

- * considering what scope there is for wider initiatives which support the Working Group's agenda, and which the Parish Council might wish to consider implementing, particularly when it becomes a 'qualified and competent Council', via participation of the Council Clerk in necessary training and study. A small number of key areas may be identified for consideration by the Parish Council.

3. Summary

3.1 This report, and its Annex, summarises the activities of the Climate Emergency Working Group in its first year.

3.2 It has been an active year, with a number of achievements, to be quantified. The profile of the Parish Council has perhaps increased. The Working Group has been grateful for the support of the Parish Council, and its Clerk. With the developing commitment of other statutory bodies to take co-ordinated action to manage down carbon-equivalent emissions, it is possible that more collaborative work with other public bodies may arise.

3.3 The Parish Council is requested to note, and support, this report and the continuing work of the Working Group.