

Chew Magna Parish Council
Climate and Nature Emergency Working Group
Terms of Reference

Issue 02 22/02/2022

1. Background

Chew Magna Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency in October 2019¹.

This declaration means that Parish Council decisions going forward will be viewed through the lens of 'Is this good for the climate and ecology of Chew Magna and all its residents, both now and in the future?'.

Science² and Government³ agree that radical action over the next decade is critical in order to reduce emissions that are driving climate change and to slow the decline of wildlife and ecosystems.

Chew Magna believes it can respond positively to this situation, and that taking action will enhance our health and well-being and that of our natural environment.

- ***The current situation is unprecedented***
- ***There is no previous experience to draw on***
- ***There are no templates to follow***
- ***We are ALL in this together***

2. Purpose of Climate and Nature Emergency Working Group (CNEWG).

Chew Magna Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency on 1 October 2019. A Climate Emergency Working Group was set up at that time (as a subcommittee of the Parish Council) and this document sets out their terms of reference.

The working group has been formed to:

- Coordinate and promote action towards making Chew Magna Parish a sustainable community and working to stop nature loss
- Set targets and measure progress against these goals
- Work with other organisations towards the same aims in wider or separate areas. To work inclusively with other bodies and other parish councils.
- To fully support B&NES and central Government meet climate and ecology deadlines.

3. Reporting

The group will report monthly to the Chew Magna Parish Council meeting.

4. Status and responsibilities

¹ www.chewmagna.org.uk/index.php/parish-council-meetings/ see 1 October 2019 minutes item 5 (e)

² www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/

³ www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-at-cop26-world-leaders-summit-opening-ceremony

The CNEWG is a working group of the Chew Magna Parish. 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 CNEWG may liaise with other Parish Councils, consult with other organisations and seek expert advice.

The Terms of Reference (which can be reviewed and updated) shall be subject to approval at a full Parish Council meeting.

5. Time

The CNEWG has now been in existence for two years. This period may be extended by the Parish Council at a full meeting.

6. Membership

The CNEWG 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;
- Two Parish Councillors;
- Quorum will be three;
- The group will appoint a chair and a secretary.

A formal membership process will be devised if required and presented to 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 monthly, location as agreed.

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 Parish Council for reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of the working group's work.