

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 12 August 2019

Title: Climate emergency declaration

Purpose of Report

For members of Honiton Town Council to consider a motion from Cllr Kolek on the declaration of a climate Emergency.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to declare a Climate Emergency. As a result of this HTC will set up a working party with all interested people and groups to make Honiton a Carbon Neutral Town by 2030.

Background:

1. During a telephone call from a member of the public Helena Whitten, the clerk was asked what Honiton Town Council are planning to do in respect of declaring a Climate Emergency.
2. I stated that during conversations with Cllr Kolek it had been agreed that we needed to bring this to Full Council meeting. Cllr Kolek was put in touch with Ms Whitten so that a report and motion could be brought to this council. Cllr Kolek has provided a report, [Appendix 15A](#)
3. A climate emergency has no single definition but in most instances refers to an area declaring that it would like to become carbon-neutral by a certain date. It will then usually set a plan to achieve this by the set date. Dates now vary from 2025 to 2040.
4. The declaration of such a motion is such that it applies pressure to all levels of government and organisations that they interact with so that resources are put in place to reduce carbon emissions.
5. In May 2019, the UK parliament declared a climate emergency. This was then followed by the prime minister receiving official advice from the Committee on Climate change and setting a target of 2050 as the date for the end of greenhouse gas emissions, thereby making the UK the first major economy to do so.

AGENDA ITEM 15

6. Locally councils that have declared climate emergencies include, Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, EDDC, Teignbridge, Tiverton and Cullompton.
7. Some of the things that the town council can do or work towards are detailed in Cllr Kolek's report. In addition to these the council could be looking at a number of additional aspects. **Appendix 15B** is an example of a mind map that has been produced highlighting ways of reducing plastic.
8. Putting out information that is relevant and carefully thought through is one of the first steps.
9. In the proposed resolution members are being asked to agree to set up a working party. The purpose of this working party will be to establish ways in which the council and the town can become carbon neutral by 2030.

Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk
August 2019