Dymock Parish Council

Biodiversity Working Group – Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Dymock Biodiversity Working Group is established to identify, promote, and support local initiatives that address climate change, reduce carbon emissions, enhance biodiversity, and build community resilience. The group will work collaboratively to integrate climate considerations into council decision-making and engage the community in sustainability efforts.

Remit

The Working Group will:

- Review and explore actions to increase biodiversity in areas managed by the council.
- Develop practical and achievable projects, such as tree planting, renewable energy initiatives, and active travel schemes.
- Seek funding or external support for sustainability and climate resilience projects.
- Provide feedback on district and county council strategies related to transport, housing, and planning applications.
- *Promote low-carbon initiatives including cycling, air quality measures (e.g. school streets), repair cafés, second-hand sales, and energy-saving schemes. ???*
- Engage local schools and groups in climate action.
- Collaborate with other councils, organisations, and networks to share best practices and coordinate efforts.

Membership

- The Working Group will consist of at least two councillors appointed by the Council, with a minimum of two required for a quorum.
- The Leader of the Group will be appointed by the Full Council.
- The Working Group may co-opt named experts or representatives/volunteers subject to Full Council approval.
- Membership should reflect a diverse range of skills and perspectives, including local business representatives and environmental professionals where possible.

Accountability and Reporting

- The Working Group is accountable to Dymock Parish Council and must report on its activities and progress.
- It has no delegated financial or decision-making authority—all recommendations must be approved by the Full Council.

- The group will prepare meeting notes and progress reports for review by the Full Council.
- All members of the council will be informed of meetings and given access to relevant documentation.

Meetings

- The Working Group will meet at least quarterly, with additional meetings as required.
- Meetings will be chaired by the appointed Leader of the Group.
- A quorum will consist of two councillors and at least two other members.
- Notes from each meeting will be recorded and published on the Dymock Parish Council website, where applicable.
- All meetings will comply with Dymock Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

Key Areas of Focus

The Working Group will focus on:

1. **Carbon Reduction** – Supporting local energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transport projects.
2. **Biodiversity and Nature Recovery** – Promoting tree planting, rewilding, and pollinator-friendly initiatives.
3. **Community Engagement** – Running educational events, workshops, and public consultations.
4. **Climate Resilience** – Identifying risks such as flooding and heatwaves and proposing adaptation measures.
5. **Sustainable Planning** – Encouraging environmentally responsible development and green infrastructure.

Funding and Resources

- The Working Group will seek external funding opportunities where appropriate.
- The group may recommend projects for funding through the council's budget but can not commit council funds.

Review and Evaluation

- The Working Group's Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by Dymock Parish Council to ensure they remain relevant and effective.
- An annual report will be submitted to the council, summarising key achievements, challenges, and next steps.

Adoption date:

New review date:

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