

Hankelow Parish Council
Proposal for Declaration of an Environment and Climate Emergency
(Draft February 2022)

Introduction:

Locally, weather patterns have noticeably changed and wildlife has noticeably decreased in variety and number. However, because Hankelow Parish is less or not likely to be affected by droughts, wildfires, floods, rising seas, food shortages, destroyed livelihoods and mass population displacement like other places, it can seem as though this is not our emergency. But behaviours and practices by the Parish's residents and businesses, past and present, have contributed to the causes of the emergency, and our contribution has been much greater than that of most of the people worst affected. Keeping the global average temperature increase to below the 1.5°C target of the Paris climate agreement requires global action, as does regenerating the environment to avoid a mass extinction of wildlife. With insufficient action our children and grandchildren risk inheriting an uninhabitable Earth. This is our emergency.

Hankelow Parish Council notes:

- a) That the United Nations warn that countries' new climate pledges combined with other mitigation measures put the world on track for a global temperature rise of 2.7°C by the end of the century, which would lead to catastrophic climate change. To keep global heating below 1.5°C this century, the world needs to halve annual greenhouse gas emissions in the next eight years. (i) The clock is ticking and time is running out fast.
- b) That all governments and councils (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.
- c) That on 22 May 2019 Cheshire East Council approved a motion noting that on 1 May 2019 Parliament declared an environment and climate emergency and saying that the Council will work to encourage all businesses, residents and organisations in Cheshire East to reduce their carbon footprint (ii).

Hankelow Parish Council therefore:

1. Declares an environment and climate emergency requiring urgent action.
 2. Calls on the UK government to provide the powers, resources and funding support to make local, as well as national, action possible.
 3. Resolves to make climate change mitigation and adaptation and the protection and regeneration of the environment as important factors in the Council's policies, plans and decisions henceforth.
 4. Commits to developing and supporting, within 12 months, a plan and time-scale for environment and climate actions in the Parish (iii).
 5. Commits to working with partners with relevant expertise to assess how and when Hankelow Parish could achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions (iv).
 6. Commits to informing residents and businesses in the Parish about the environment and climate emergency, and to involving stakeholders, including children and young people, in identifying environment and climate actions.
 7. Commits to sharing information and training opportunities for councillors, clerk and residents to enable a shared understanding of the environment and climate emergency. (v).
- i. United Nations Environment Programme. The Heat Is On – A world of climate promises not yet delivered. Emissions Gap Report 2021. Published 27 October 2021.
- ii. Cheshire East Council, Environment Strategy 2020-24, May 2020.
- iii. When the Neighbourhood Plan is due for revision, can the environment and climate actions to be integrated into the Neighbourhood Plan process rather than being an additional time-consuming activity?

iv. Partners, e.g., Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, CPRE, Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment, National Farmers Union, Nature Friendly Farming Network, etc.

v. with support from e.g., Centre for Sustainable Energy’s Sustainable Neighbourhood Planning Support, or Zero Carbon Britain training for councils by the Centre for Alternative Technology, etc. Climate Emergency UK lists all the councils across the UK which have declared a climate emergency, including parish councils, and provides case studies of how other councils have approached the issue and other resources and guides.