

Declaration of an Environmental and Climate Emergency in the Parish of Winterborne St. Martin

The Oxford dictionary defines climate emergency as a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change, to avoid potentially irreversible change.

The UK government declared there was a climate emergency in May 2019, at the same time as the newly formed Dorset Council. In the light of their declaration Dorset Council have now consulted and published their Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy that maps a pathway to carbon neutrality by 2040. This has been reported to us as councillors by Dorset County. For more information please see:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/climate-emergency/climate-ecological-emergency-strategy/the-climate-and-ecological-emergency-strategy.aspx>

Declarations recognise that climate change is happening and that the actions of humans are contributing to this change. The notion of it being an emergency defines the urgency of the situation.

By declaring a climate emergency we will clearly signal to the members of our parish that we will consider the environment in all our decision making and that we will work towards a carbon neutral parish. Our declaration we also signal that we accept the challenge of leadership that as a Parish Council we have, as we identify ways that we can support living and working in our parish that does not damage but enhances our natural environment.

This declaration does not solve climate change but it does set this parish council on a path on which we will review the way we work, we will identify the areas we need to act and influence, it will challenge our decision making processes and it invites us to support and work with our parish for positive change.

I propose this resolution: *The PC of WStM recognises that there is a climate emergency and declares that we will act on the causes and impacts of climate change.*

Andy Daw

February 2021