



# Waldringfield Parish Council

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## Waldringfield Parish Council Climate & Ecological Emergency Statement

**This statement was approved at the meeting of Waldringfield Parish Council on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

There is incontrovertible scientific evidence that the world's climate is changing as a result of increasingly high levels of pollution and greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, primarily generated by human activity. The world is facing an extraordinary problem and we need to ensure that we all play our part in the global fight against climate change.

We recognise that Waldringfield is a very small Parish and the Parish Council has few physical assets under its direct control, but we can still play an important role by working with our community and encouraging our residents to do their bit to help in the battle.

In line with our District and County Councils, Waldringfield Parish Council has declared a Climate & Ecological Emergency (WPC meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021). In declaring this emergency, the Parish Council is making a commitment to:

- work towards the reduction of our community's carbon footprint, and
- encourage actions that support biodiversity and the natural environment.

This statement outlines the overarching strategy and key policy areas.

Where we have control and where available, we will choose products and services which mitigate the climate emergency. We will encourage appropriate tree and other planting, and manage habitats to mitigate the climate emergency and encourage biodiversity.

We will ensure that climate change is a factor in all our future decisions and decision-making processes.

We will ensure that our adopted policies reflect our declaration and we will review regularly the relevant policies, in particular the Planning Policy (Appendix 1 of this statement) and the Landscape & Wildlife Policy (Appendix 2).

The Parish has a vibrant and active community, with a number of individuals and voluntary groups who promote and support climate change mitigation measures and biodiversity enhancement. Currently these include Waldringfield Allotment & Leisure Gardeners (WALGA), Waldringfield Wildlife Group, Church Field Trust and Greener Waldringfield; others may come forward.

To ensure good communication links between the council and these groups, Waldringfield Parish Council will introduce a new area of responsibility of Climate & Biodiversity Coordinator; two councillors will take on this role within the Parish Council. They will give regular feedback to the Parish Council so, in addition to any council-led initiatives, the Parish Council may also (following discussion) provide assistance and support where appropriate to local projects designed to help mitigate the adverse effects of climate and ecological change. This may include financial assistance. These projects could be wide-ranging and may include raising awareness of the emergency, providing advice on how individuals can make a difference, or a more proactive approach such as tree-planting initiatives, preservation and development of wildlife habitats, litter picking etc.

The council will review the outcome of its actions every 12 months.

**Date of first review: January 2022.**