



Dear Councillor

18 July 2019

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** to be held on **TUESDAY 23 JULY 2019 at 7.30 pm** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER**, Town Hall, West Borough, Wimborne Minster.

**COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED TO BRING WITH THEM TO THIS MEETING ANY WRITTEN REPORTS TO COMMITTEES TO WHICH THEY MAY WISH TO REFER.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence Hart'.

Town Clerk

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Before commencement of the formal agenda, members of the public are invited to ask questions of the Council at the Chairman's discretion.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held on 14 May 2019 (pages 7354, 7355 and 7356).
- 3 To confirm the Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL** meeting held on 18 June 2019 (pages 7367, 7368 and 7369).
- 4 To receive the Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on 21 May 2019 (pages 7357 and 7358).
- 5 To receive the Minutes of the **PERSONNEL, POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE** held on 6 June 2019 (pages 7359, 7360 and 7361).
- 6 To receive the Minutes of the **PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on 11 June 2019 (pages 7363, 7364 and 7365).
- 7 To receive the Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on 18 June 2019 (page 7366).



8 To receive the Minutes of the **PERSONNEL, POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE** held on 5 July 2019 (pages 7370 and 7371).

9 To receive the Minutes of the **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE** held on 9 July 2019 (pages 7372, 7373, 7374 and 7375).

10 To receive the Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on 16 July 2019 (pages 7376 and 7377).

11 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

To consider the following motion submitted by Cllr Shirley in accordance with Standing Order No 20:

Wimborne Minster Town Council is acutely aware of the myriad of challenges we have begun to brave in the face of global warming. Due to the integrated nature of fossil fuels in our daily lives, we [the global society] are still in the stage of having to use fossil fuels to transition away from fossil fuels. The Town Council acknowledges the adverse effects this is having and will increasingly have on our health, wellbeing and prosperity; however, also astutely understands the vast economic opportunities we can employ to avoid humanity's untimely demise. At our last attempt to keep warming below 1.5 deg C, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed biodiversity and climate emergency motions. The Town Council recognises these as momentous and historical markers that future generations can look back on and be proud of, and therefore Wimborne Minster Town Council declares a Biodiversity and Climate Emergency. It is further proposed that a Task and Finish Group be set up to work in line with Dorset Council's new Climate Change Panel.

(Note: A supporting document produced by Cllr Shirley is attached.)

12 **DORSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** (if any).

13 **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT.**

14 **TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS** (if any).

15 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

16 **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE UPGRADE**

To consider the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (copy herewith)

**LOCALISM ACT 2011 and CODE of CONDUCT**

Members are reminded to comply with those elements of the Localism Act and the Town Council's Code of Conduct in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests.

**GENERAL CONDUCT**

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and Data Protection (General Data Protection Regulation).

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Wimborne Minster Town Council Proposal and Draft Motion for a Declaration of Biodiversity and Climate Emergency**

### **The Motion to Declare a Biodiversity and Climate Emergency**

Wimborne Minster Town Council is acutely aware of the myriad of challenges we have begun to brave in the face of global warming. Due to the integrated nature of fossil fuels in our daily lives, we [the global society] are still in the stage of having to use fossil fuels to transition away from fossil fuels. WMTC acknowledges the adverse effects this is having and will increasingly have on our health, wellbeing and prosperity; however, also astutely understands the vast economic opportunities we can employ to avoid humanity's untimely demise. At our last attempt to keep warming below 1.5 deg C, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed biodiversity and climate emergency motions. WMTC recognises these as momentous and historical markers that future generations can look back and be proud of, and therefore we, Wimborne Minster Town Council declares a Biodiversity and Climate Emergency.

### **Introduction**

It is proposed by Cllr Shirley that Wimborne Minster Town Council declare a Biodiversity and Climate Emergency.

### **Background**

#### **1.1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

In March 2018 the IPCC issued its Special Report on Global Warming. This report found that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees would require rapid and far-reaching changes. Carbon dioxide emissions would need to fall by forty five percent by 2030. The report says this would require unprecedented changes. If global warming is allowed to increase by two degrees, our planet would be likely to suffer calamitous and irreversible harm.

This means the world has eleven years to reduce emissions. If we fail within that period there will, in the near future, be what the report describes as challenging impacts on human health and well-being. These are likely to include -

- Rapidly changing and unpredictable climate
- Extreme heat – even in the UK – which would in particular impact the physical and mental health of the vulnerable

- Extreme weather events such as prolonged and heavy rain leading to flooding and hurricane force winds creating widespread damage
- With the heating of our seas the seawater will expand and coastal communities will be inundated
- Our agricultural methods will have to undergo rapid change in order to adapt to unusually hot and dry summers, and unusually warm and wet winters
- There will be refugees within the UK, and there will be refugees to the UK from countries who are suffering more calamitously from changes to the climate.

There have of course already been examples of these effects. June 2019, France records its all-time highest temperature on record: 45.9 deg C. 2018 was a record breaking summer. Its high temperatures equalled those of 1976, 2003 and 2006, but its average temperatures were the highest since records began in 1910.

The winters of 2013/2014 and 2015/16 were the two wettest on record. December 2015 was the wettest December, and indeed the wettest month since records began in 1910. There was in particular severe flooding in Cumbria.

The Welsh seaside village of Fairbourne in north Wales is to be “decommissioned” in 2045 by Gwynedd council involving the relocation of 850 residents. They will not be receiving compensation.

(To briefly mention) The effects in low-income countries, people with the smallest carbon footprints are suffering the greatest impacts of high-income countries/western lifestyles and the human rights issues this raises.

The decisions we make now are critical for the future. “The next few years are probably the most important in our history,” says the IPCC.

## 1.2 **The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

On 6 May 2019 IPBES issued its Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. This noted that biodiversity and ecosystem services, in other words, the natural world, are vital for our survival. There has been a rapid escalation in the exploitation of all our natural resources since 1970 and they are now showing a rapid decline. This includes Dorset’s rivers, grasslands and woodlands and everything that grows in them namely plants, animals, fish and insects.

One million species now face extinction on land and in the oceans. Food security is threatened as our farming is undermined by the loss of beneficial species such as bees, and the degradation of soil and water.

Why has this happened? In the last fifty years there has been unprecedented global increase in -

- Land and freshwater use

- Sea use
- Exploitation of organisms
- Climate
- Pollution

### 1.3 The Response of the Public

Councillors will be aware that there has been an upwelling of concern particularly from children and younger people. Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg has raised awareness of the need for immediate action to combat climate change by protesting outside the Swedish parliament. She has started a global movement and although only aged sixteen has featured on the cover of Time magazine, and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. School children in the UK have taken part in Friday Strikes as part of a global campaign for action on climate change. Extinction Rebellion staged a series of protests in London in April which culminated in Parliament declaring an environmental and climate emergency.

### What relevance does this have to Wimborne Minster Town Council?

2.1 Dorset is one of the richest areas for biodiversity in the UK a factor which contributes to attracting tourists and residents and businesses.

2.2 A recent study from Bournemouth University found that about one half of Dorset's businesses report they benefit from Dorset's natural environment especially farming, fish and tourism, but other sectors such as manufacturing and entertainment stated strong benefits too.

2.3 Throughout the UK approximately sixty declarations of climate emergency have been made by Councils including Dorset Council on 16 May 2019, and by a number of Town Councils such as Frome, Bideford and Dartington.

2.4 It is relatively simple for Wimborne Minster Town Council than Dorset Council to make a declaration as it owns far less property and land and has fewer statutory duties and powers. But as a Town Council it is able to have a more direct influence on residents and businesses in terms of increasing the awareness of the issues at stake and the actions that can be taken.

2.5 Any actions Wimborne Minster Town Council carries out, and which it encourages residents and businesses to carry out, will of course only be a small contribution to the global effort required. But if these actions are repeated across Dorset, the UK and the world, change can happen.

2.6 Cllr Shirley has over thirteen years of experience in understanding the role of infrastructure in our daily lives, and how we use energy. She focused on enhancing the efficiency of solar panel technology during university, where the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers published her research at Imperial College London. Since

2014 she has been focusing on how to improve access to solar energy for people across the globe. During this time, Cllr Shirley also gained experience in consultancy, working with major energy users such as Heathrow Airport, Tesco, University of Edinburgh and RBS - finding affordable; existing solutions to their current energy challenges to reduce energy demand; transition to higher efficiency technologies; and move away from fossil fuels - reducing their energy bills and their carbon footprint.

2.7 The Declaration will demonstrate to the residents and businesses of Wimborne Minster, and importantly to the children and young people of the town, that the Council really does care about the future.

## **The Declaration of Biodiversity and Climate Emergency**

3.1 Wimborne Minster's Declaration of Biodiversity and Climate Emergency would be a positive and historic moment for the town. It would –

- 3.1.1 raise the profile of the town as a green town committed to reducing emissions and protecting biodiversity
- 3.1.2 attract green businesses to the town
- 3.1.3 attract visitors who admire the town's forward looking approach
- 3.1.4 send a message to the young people of the town that we really do care about their future
- 3.1.5 increase awareness and appreciation of the good work the Council does
- 3.1.6 encourage locals to become the Councillors of the future

3.2 The day the Declaration is made would be an opportunity for celebration, a moment to capture the spirit that together we can make a difference.

## **Aim**

In light of the above, Cllr Shirley is requesting that a Task and Finish Group be set up to work in line with Dorset Council's new Climate Change Panel.

**Cllr Shirley**  
15 July 2019