



## Environmental Policy Statement of Ruskington Parish Council

### **The Council's Statement of General Policy is:**

Ruskington Parish Council (RPC) aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result.

### **Context:**

The Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared at national, regional and within some organisations, local level.

The Parish Council will consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes, where this is practicable and affordable within the resources and financial capabilities of council.

The Parish Council will specifically consider the following:

1. the impact that operating its assets has on the environment,
2. the impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment,
3. where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives
4. the impact that execution of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment

### **Aims:**

In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to:

- (i) Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the buildings and equipment it uses and the administration of its activities.
- (ii) Seek, wherever possible, to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, updated and measured against recognised, best practice examples.
- (iii) Where possible, affordable, and, commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and or, biodiversity protection or enhancement, and
- (iv) Involve the local community and local groups and encourage local action in support of the environment.
- (v) Operate an environmental system that co-ordinates work affecting the environment
- (vi) Review local environmental indicators, such as water quality and waste recycling

- (vii) Enforce regulations designed to protect the environment, as applicable.
- (viii) Give advice to local business and industry on environmental issues
- (ix) Progressively build environmental concerns and sustainability into all its policies
- (x) Prepare, implement, and monitor environmental action plans for Village Hall, Pavilion and other assets.

**Principles:**

Ruskington Parish Council will:

- (i) Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- (ii) Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
- (iii) Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing.
- (iv) Recycle and reuse waste materials
- (v) Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
- (vi) Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources, including installation of solar panels on Council owned buildings.
- (vii) Respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good management.
- (viii) Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.
- (ix) Encourage its Members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times

**Respect and protect natural resources through conservation and good management.**

a. Where possible conserve water from buildings and on allotments and check/protect external taps in winter.

b. Encourage users of RPC owned grounds and allotments to enhance biodiversity to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate. Prohibit the use of pesticides and herbicides on Council owned facilities and open spaces (i.e. allotments/cemetery/memorial garden/recreation spaces) Discourage use of same on privately owned spaces in the village.

c. Cleaning fluids, polishes and glues etc. must be as environmentally least damaging as possible. Bleach and solvents harmful to the environment to be avoided.

**Commented [CD1]:** I recall at a previous EC meeting, there was some debate about the use of insecticides with, I believe, the Chair stating that it was in the Environment Policy that it should not be used. Whilst there is some non-specific guidance that suggests this, I see no absolute direction.