Almeley Parish Council - Environment and Sustainability Policy Agreed June 2023 Revised January 2024

Background
In September 2019 Herefordshire Council declared a climate emergency with the objective of getting Herefordshire to zero carbon by 2030. In March 2022, Almeley Parish Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in recognition of the clear evidence that climate change and biodiversity loss represent a threat to the life opportunities and wellbeing of future generations and needs to be addressed at all levels of government.

The Role of the Council
The Council recognises that addressing the challenges of climate change will result in many benefits in terms of health, wellbeing, and community resilience and also recognises its responsibility to show engagement and leadership on this issue.

The Council Response
Subsequently, the Council established an Environmental Working Group (EWG) consisting of parish councillors and representatives of The Green Group to support the Council and community in a) significantly reducing carbon emissions by 2030, b) to restore and enhance the environment within the parish, and c) preparing for extreme weather events and other adaptation required as a result of climate change.

Accordingly, the Council commits

a) that its future actions and decisions will consider the twin aims to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030, in support of Herefordshire's commitment, and to restore and enhance the environment within the parish,
b) to endeavour that the impact of its existing and future policies, plans and actions are reviewed against best practice and the environmental objectives within this policy and
c) to take a proactive role in working with both the Parish community and other local Parishes to improve understanding of our impact on the environment and how to build a more sustainable future.

The main focus of the EWG will be-

a) to establish an open non-judgemental and listening communication plan,
b) the production and subsequent annual review of a Climate Action Plan and
c) the production and subsequent annual review of a Biodiversity Improvement Plan.
d) the production and subsequent annual review of a Community Resilience Plan

Climate Action Plan considerations

- Energy in Homes and Businesses
- Transport
- Food Choices and Security
- Waste
- Land Management
- Flood risk

Biodiversity Action Plan considerations

- Habitat protection and creation
- Pollution
- Land Management

The council will consider if and how to implement these plans and how they can be appropriately funded.