# Climate Awareness and Environment Policy

## Thurston Parish Council

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**Review Period:** Annually or following legislative changes.
**Next Review:** Policy & Resources Committee February 2027

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## 1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

1.1 This policy statement affirms that Thurston Parish Council is committed to tackling the Climate Crisis and to the preservation of the environment.

## 2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 The council will strive to:

- Raise the awareness of key decision makers;
- Ensure that the implications of health, social, environmental and economic well-being of the community are considered within policies;
- Share good practice with partners and the community;
- Undertake training and education and to share that knowledge.

2.2 The council believes that this policy must have the support of staff, partners and the community to be successful. The policy will be measured and reviewed on a regular basis.

## 3.0 APPROACHES

3.1 The approaches the council will take in adhering to this commitment are:

- Embedding green awareness in policy and organisational development
- Implementing environmental measures
- Information, education and personal development
- Alliance and partnership working
- Transportation management

# PROCEDURE

## 1.0 Objectives

1.1 Thurston Parish Council shall:

- maintain respect for natural resources by ensuring the most efficient use of materials and by using renewable, recyclable products wherever possible;
- ensure the use of environmentally friendly products wherever practicable;
- minimise, where possible, the creation of waste, especially hazardous waste, and wherever possible, recycle or reuse materials; dispose of all waste through safe and responsible methods in compliance with the relevant environmental legislation;
- ensure the responsible use of energy throughout the council by conserving energy, improving energy efficiency, seeking to utilise safer energy sources and giving preference to renewable over finite energy resources wherever possible;
- encourage the minimising of the effects of atmospheric pollution from vehicles;
- encourage the use of public transport and the minimising of car journeys wherever reasonable and practicable;
- encourage cycling and walking wherever practicable

This policy will apply to all aspects of the council's activities including all projects, buildings, machinery and transportation.

## 2.0 Activities to achieve the objectives

2.1 Thurston Parish Council shall:

- raise awareness of the climate crisis and environmental matters within the community;
- actively engage the community in activities to mitigate damage to the environment and to address the climate crisis;
- monitor and coordinate the environmental performance of the organisation;

- conduct periodic environmental reviews and self-evaluation of its compliance with the environmental policy;
- prepare, implement and monitor action plans to improve performance;
- report these findings to the community;
- support and encourage contractors, suppliers and other associates to minimise their impact on the environment through the communication of its environmental policy and strategic purchasing and contract policies;
- actively seek to influence others to adopt environmental policies and good environmental management;
- Actively seek the purchase of materials and the appointment of local contractors whenever such skills and materials exist locally.

## 3.0 Contracts / Tenders

3.1 Since the council, as a public body expending public funds, is also required to secure good value for money, purchasing decisions will take account of both environmental and value for money factors.

3.2 Financial regulations must be observed in conjunction with the council's standing orders and any individual financial regulations relating to contracts.

3.3 Every contract shall comply with the council's financial regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency.

## 4.0 Use of Pesticides on Parish owned / maintained land

4.1 The parish council supports a reduction in the use of chemical pesticides on the land it owns, leases and/or manages. To this end there is a preference for non-chemical control of pests where possible using preventative, physical and suppression means.

4.2 Where herbicides are used to control weeds on paths, roadway and car parks this will be undertaken by someone who has the appropriate qualifications and permits to apply legally permitted herbicide on public land.

4.3 Commercially available herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, weedkillers and chemical fertilizers will only be allowed on the parish owned allotments and there shall be no use of any weedkiller or herbicide on any path adjoining the allotments.

4.4 Where foliar glyphosate herbicides are used, the council will work towards the application of pesticides by a system which reduces spray drift and runoff (called a condensed droplet application) by 2027.

4.5 Herbicides use should only be approved under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 which should be used in accordance with the product label. Herbicides are NEVER to be used on or near to any watercourses or SuDS of any kind or where it is likely to have a detrimental effect on non-target flora or fauna. A suitable buffer is to be used when using chemicals on land close to water courses. This is usually at least 5m from the water area. Herbicides are only used at optimum times and suitable weather conditions, to reduce the dangers of spray 'drift'. The preferred use of herbicides is via use spot treatment of problematic species (hand sprayed, painted or similar and not blanket coverage)

4.6 The use of glyphosate pesticides to treat invasive weeds such as Japanese Knot Weed will only be by specialist companies contracted by the Council to treat the weeds and at an appropriate concentrate to be effective. The application should only be undertaken by a qualified individual, on a minimum number of occasions in a year, and with the lowest concentrate to be effective, with appropriate records of application being maintained.

## 5.0 General

5.0 Each member and employee of the council will:

- Take responsibility for the implementation of the environmental policy;
- Encourage volunteers and members of other organisations to adopt good practices so as to improve the environmental performance of their organisation and improve its impact upon the environment.