

1. Roles and Responsibilities

Having met all the new councillors individually and communicated with all the previous councillors, the way forwards is much clearer.

There are a couple of items that remain to be addressed – which we can discuss at the PC meeting.

The details have not yet been communicated and agreed by everyone. They will be made public when full agreements are in place.

Time is constrained due to a family holiday, so please bear with me.

2. Political Independence

Whilst this item has been discussed, a formal PC resolution is yet to be made on this.

I propose that a clear declaration is made:

- Freshford PC resolves that the Parish Council operates with full political independence on all matters.

3. Climate Emergency

It should be noted that both BANES and central government have passed motions declaring the existence of a Climate Emergency.

Councillor Romero, leader of BANES, has made the following statement:

'Our new cabinet team sets a clear direction for the council. We are ambitious for our area and have some big tasks ahead particularly addressing the climate emergency and have already created a dedicated cabinet role to champion this vital concern. All our cabinet members are committed to opening up the council and making sure people's voices are heard about issues that really matter locally.'

The PC is requested to consider making a similar declaration, essentially a statement of intent.

A Climate Emergency policy then needs to be defined, and possible courses of action identified.

Should the PC resolve to declare that there is a Climate Emergency, then all actions, considerations and decisions will need to be undertaken with consideration to the Climate Emergency.

There are differing views as to when the UK should be carbon neutral by. The government has made a commitment for the UK to reduce carbon emissions by 57% by 2030. This requires significant change in not only lifestyle, home efficiency but also the ecological environment.

The recent NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) updates includes the following:

'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: minimising impacts and providing net gains for biodiversity.'

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Exactly what this means to the PC needs to be fleshed out, but a statement of intent needs to be stated.

Request

That the PC considers a motion to resolve that the PC recognises that there is a state of Climate Emergency. The PC will consider its Policy and identify how matters should be addressed moving forwards.