



Adopted by South Wonston Parish Council February 2025

SOUTH WONSTON PARISH COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY FINAL DRAFT

PURPOSE

The Parish Council acknowledges the threat of climate emergency and is committed to making the principles of sustainability fundamental to its proceedings in order to promote long-term resilience and well-being in the community. The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 gives Parish and Town Councils powers to promote microgeneration, efficient local energy use and reduced local energy use and to encourage energy-saving measures by offering help, information and advice on local goods and services. Expenditure on the above is limited by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Parish Council will be realistic and targeted about what it can achieve and will concentrate on which actions will benefit its parishioners most.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all the powers and duties of the Parish Council undertaken according to law, which include the power to take action, represent the community, improve quality of life and the local environment. The Parish Council can influence other decision makers, specifically for some aspects of planning, and deliver services which meet local needs. It is also able to offer limited amounts of financial support for local projects and support community action, and enter into partnership with the South Wonston Sustainability Group, other community groups and local authorities.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is the same as that of the South Wonston Sustainability Group: to encourage and support our community to evolve towards a climate-friendly, smarter and more sustainable way of living

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

WORKING TOGETHER WITH SOUTH WONSTON SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

The Parish Council will endorse and support the goals of South Wonston Sustainability Group, which are to liaise, learn and connect with other individuals, organisations and groups within our community to help make positive changes to reduce impact on the environment and to reduce waste and consumption as a community by refusing, reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling.

PARISH COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Parish Council will endeavour to minimise its own environmental impact and protect biodiversity, show consideration to natural sources and reduce pollution where possible. The Parish Council, working alongside the Sustainability Group, will provide residents with information related to how to achieve their own climate solutions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Parish Council will commit to enabling residents to have access to sustainability information and resultant actions related to well-being and participation in the creation of a present and future sustainable community.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The Parish Council will offer support to focus on economic activities which do not deplete natural resources or cause environmental harm. It will support, consider green technologies, renewable energy generation in line with future overall community goals for the future.

PARISH COUNCIL ACTIONS AND DECISION MAKING

The Parish Council will aim at continuous improvement in its journey towards sustainability.

It will support the Sustainability Group to in its calculation to discover how much carbon dioxide the Parish Council's property produces, either "manually" through its energy bills, or by using a Carbon Footprint Calculator.

It will use all possible ways to reduce energy consumption and use energy more efficiently and when needed use the Carbon Footprint Calculator. Low energy bulbs may be used in the Pavilion. Electrical devices will be switched off and turned down as appropriate. The Pavilion was developed to be a sustainable energy efficient building and it is equipped with solar panels on the roof, it also has underground heating. As a result of the agreement with Ofgem the Pavilion meets the criteria of being energy efficient and therefore receives a return of quarterly expenses in respect of electricity used for the function of the heatpump. The Parish Council needs to strictly adhere to the Ofgem regulations and agreement for 20 years.

The kitchen fridge and other appliances will be used to maximum efficiency. When buying new appliances, items bearing the Energy Saving Logo will be preferred. Waste will be dealt with responsibly and recycled or reused if possible.

The recreation ground will be managed for the benefit of the environment as well as the benefit of the community. Wherever an opportunity arises to create sustainable features, such as in the playground, wooded or grassy areas, proper care will be taken so they flourish. The Parish Council will plant locally found trees, shrubs and wild flowers (pollinator plants), but may also consider drought-resistant species. It will continue to add to its bird and small mammal boxes.

As part of its process for examining local, district and county planning applications, the Parish Council will, in relation to sustainability, environmental and biodiversity issues, give regard to Energy and Carbon Statements Validation Requirements, Arboricultural Impact Assessments, Work Method Statements, Tree Protection Plans, and compliance with the relevant provisions of the Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework.

The Parish Council will include climate change topics in its revised Village Design Statement and respond to future Local Plans with emphasis on those issues.

In collaboration with the Sustainability Ground the Parish Council will collaborate with local Parish Councils, Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council and local organisations devoted to tackling climate change such as WinAcc, the South Wonston Sustainability Group and other voluntary organisations.

The Parish Council will receive applications for small grants from the South Wonston Sustainability Group, groups with environmental or biodiversity interests.

The Parish Council will support the Sustainability Group in its efforts to conduct a village survey to research use of resources so that it may be better informed when considering how best to advise people in South Wonston.

MONITORING

The Annual Reports will inform the monitoring process. Successes will be celebrated and failures will provide an incentive to try harder.

REVIEW

The Sustainability Policy will be reviewed and amended as necessary each year after the Annual Report.

REVIEW DATE:- May 2025

CONCLUSION

By adopting this Sustainability Policy, the Parish Council demonstrates its commitment to integrating sustainable practices into all its activities, fostering a balanced approach to growth and environmental responsibility to be shared with the whole community.