



"Not for self"

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Environment Working Group

Terms of Reference

Preamble

Local residents have expressed concern about environmental issues such as flooding, slurry disposal, smells, and pollution. Therefore, the purpose of this Working Group is to work with members of the public and appropriate bodies/agencies to resolve issues that have a detrimental impact on the environment.

Duty

In pursuance of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 a public authority in England has a duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of its policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. This duty includes identifying ways to integrate biodiversity when the Parish Council:

- Develops policies and strategies and puts them into practice.
- Responds to planning matters.
- Manages its land and property.
- Makes decisions about procurement.

This Working Group will therefore assist in ensuring that the Parish Council commits to its biodiversity duty.

Membership	Number of councillors: FIVE
Objective	To work with local residents and assist them to have their voice heard by those responsible for issues of concern that have a negative impact on the environment and biodiversity.
Function	To collect and collate complaints and concerns expressed by local residents, gather evidence and relevant information regarding environmental issues throughout the parish, particularly in relation to matters that have a negative impact on the local environment and biodiversity such as pollution, flooding, smells, slurry disposal. To pass on all matters of environmental concern to the appropriate body/organisation responsible for such matters e.g. the Environment Agency, Shropshire Council, police.
Authority	Local Government Act 1972, Section 101.
Conditions	The parish council's Code of Conduct. Data Protection Act 2018. To report to the parish council on the group's activity, having regard to the advice of the Clerk in relation to Freedom of Information and confidentiality.
Appointment	The working group shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting of the parish council. The working group can be dissolved by the Parish Council at any time.
Delegation	No delegated authority other than the functions laid out in these Terms of Reference.
Meetings	The working group will meet as often as needed but not less than twice in each council year.

RESPONSIBILITIES	
1.	To take a primary role in listening to environmental concerns expressed by local communities.
2.	To collect and collate complaints and concerns referred by members of the community.
3.	To gather evidence and relevant information regarding breaches in planning regulations and any action that is harmful or detrimental to the environment or biodiversity.
4.	Where necessary, to liaise with regulatory bodies with a view to resolving any issues reported by members of the community.
5.	To have regard to the Parish Council's duty to have regard for conserving biodiversity.
6.	To report findings and make recommendations to the Parish Council.

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