

Stoke St Gregory FSG Climate Action

Minutes of Virtual Meeting Monday, January 25th at 7.00pm

Present: Graham Gleed, Charlotte Sundquist, Janice Pearce, Paul Parmenter
Trevor Williams, Peter House.

Apologies: Sara Sollis, Laura Jensen

1. Welcome: GG welcomed participants to the meeting. The importance of the work of this group cannot be overestimated. It is anticipated that this will be a collaborative effort which touches all members of the community, but in particular with Climate Action Athelney
2. **The Charter** for the group was reviewed and accepted as an accurate statement of the modus operandi. It is as follows.

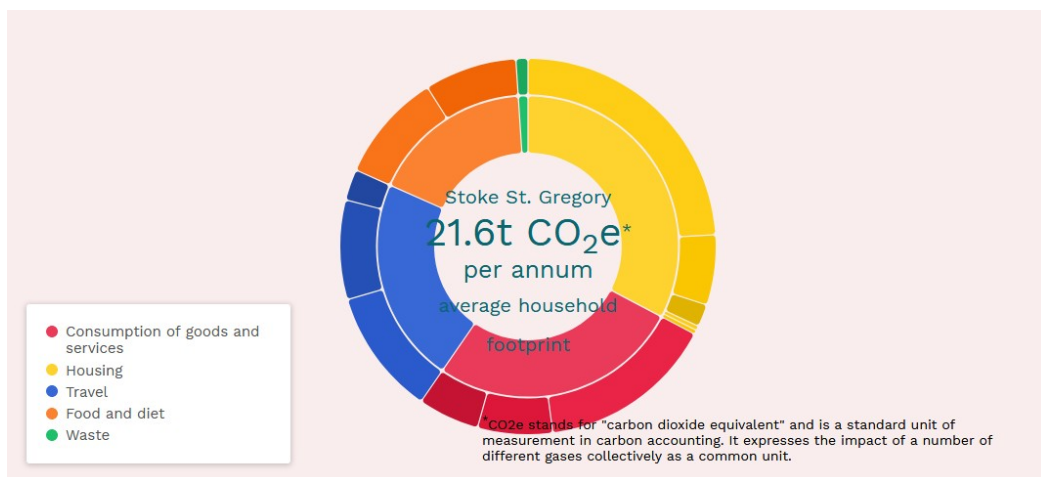
The Stoke St Gregory Future Strategy Group (Climate Action) has been commissioned by the PC as a non-executive advisory body, tasked with the responsibility of researching and co-ordinating ideas which can contribute to the future welfare of the village. This activity will take its lead from the Parish Council and will work within a framework of the immediate challenges facing the village in trying to reduce the carbon footprint within the Parish as described in the Carbon Footprint tool. It is the task of this team to inform the Parish Council of possible opportunities so that they may be formally considered and approved as appropriate. Networking with other local parishes who are facing similar challenges will be an important factor in gathering ideas, understanding best practice and collaborating on common projects. Public consultation on issues of key interest will be initiated from the Parish Council.

The Group will be composed of a limited number of contributors (normally not more than six), both, PC members and local residents who wish to participate in this discussion. Expert help may be co-opted from time to time as needed.

3. **The Parish Council Carbon Footprint Calculator** developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Exeter University was introduced. It was emphasised that this tool is still in development and as such has minor bugs most of which have been identified.
 - The difference between Territorial and Consumption footprints was explained. Territorial represents all carbon dioxide equivalent emissions generated within a

geographical boundary and includes emissions from industry and agriculture located within that boundary. The Consumption footprint describes the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions that are caused by consumption, be they from domestic consumption, travel, goods and services etc.

- The data can be found at <https://parishes-demo.cse.org.uk/>
- This data shows that as a parish Stoke St Gregory is responsible on a consumption basis for the emission of 9219 tonnes of carbon dioxide (eqv) per annum which amounts to 21.6 tones of carbon dioxide (eqv) per average household.



4. **Comparisons** with other regions are possible but a clear understanding of the specific circumstances is required to draw any valid conclusions.
5. **Are there Opportunities in Key Areas?**
 - JP noted that there are apps that give guidance on reducing carbon footprint at a household level. We should perhaps look at these.
 - GG emphasised the difference between reduction through elimination versus offsetting through compensating provisions. The first is more important but both should be pursued.
 - TW emphasised that just planting a tree is beneficial, but biodiversity should be the key driver.
 - GG suggested that we need to deal in tangible approaches that can be referred back to the Parish Council such that they can be more broadly promoted.
 - JP suggests that education is key and that connecting with the curriculum at the Primary School could be a significant opportunity particularly in this period of lockdown and home schooling.

- PP expressed concern that whatever action is taken at the Parish or even household level it will be difficult to measure its impact.
- CS stated that reduction is key and cited the shop as a good example as a way of reducing travel and reliance on home deliveries.
- GG suggests that a perhaps a good place to start is with education of the community. By sharing the data that has been generated with the calculator it is possible to create a realisation that things must change. PH supports this view as a means to promote change particularly as reduction can also lead to reduced cost.
- A discussion on veganism produced an animated exchange between participants in which the importance of education particularly around the origins of basic food materials was again emphasised.
- TW requests that a recommendation is made that a specific comment is include in every planning application that comes before the Parish Council with regard to the environmental impact.
- CS asks whether there can be a policy at the Village Shop to minimise to amount of packaging in products sold.
- GG emphasises that behavioural change is required such that the act of leaving waste and in particular plastic waste creates a sense of 'guilt' which again leads back to education.
- CS request that people minimise their grass cutting in order to maximise opportunities for pollinators,

6. It was noted that **funding** for small projects that support this effort may be possible through the CIL funds that have been allocated to the Parish Council specifically for infrastructure improvements. This would hopefully provide visible evidence of change and further contribute to education,
7. **On reflection**, all present felt that the meeting was interesting and useful but with a need to be backed up small but tangible action to demonstrate that we are serious about building the momentum behind this effort.

Next Meeting: The Next Meeting will be held on Monday, February 22nd.