



## **A Green Charter for Our Parish**

### **COMMUNITY STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Our community recognises the fragility of the environment and the threats arising from climate change. It is the intention of the community of Stoke St Gregory to take care of the environment, taking positive action to protect it, make informed and responsible decisions both individually and collectively, and to encourage our friends, neighbours and visitors to do the same. Similarly, our community recognises the threats arising from climate change that are already impacting on the health, wellbeing, sustainability and the economy on our community. This Green Charter is part of a strategy intended to protect our natural and built environment and to identify actions that will mitigate the effects of climate change. These actions will be rigorously applied, monitored and strengthened where necessary.

It is an expectation that those who wish to engage in business and contracts with the Parish Council, and those who use community facilities, will protect the environment and take measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

### **VALUES**

To protect both the current community and future generations it is necessary to act now to protect our planet and way of life. Our community commits itself to take action to protect the natural resources needed for food production and to sustain all life whilst recognising the impact that population growth has on our infrastructure and support systems. Taking no action will result in serious threats to our community.

The Parish Council will take action to reduce the impact of climate change and loss of biodiversity where it has the authority to do so. It will also encourage all members of the community to embrace environmental initiatives and to 'think green' for the safety and wellbeing of future generations.

Acting collectively, our community has the power to play its part in becoming a sustainable Parish that protects the environment, our health, wellbeing, infrastructure, and economy on which we all rely.

### **STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN**

- Work with landowners and the farming community to seek strategies for minimising all forms of pollution and maximising the sequestration of carbon (and other harmful gases) in the atmosphere;
- Recommend that all building proposals include strategies for minimising or eliminating the use of fossil fuels;
- Work with homeowners and landlords to implement energy conservation strategies;
- Work with all owners to future-proof dwellings and other buildings such that they are resilient to heavier rainfall, increased flooding and hotter summers;
- Implement a local transport strategy that leads to a reduction in the use of petrol and diesel-fuelled vehicles;
- Protect the clean and waste-water infrastructure to ensure it is capable of operating at all times, including flood, and it can support the needs of the local environment;
- Engage with projects of all scales that protect the environment and support biodiversity;
- Engage with projects that lead to an increase in our ability to sequester carbon at a capacity that is at least equal to our community's territorial emissions;
- Engage with and support initiatives that reduce waste by reusing, recycling or repurposing;
- Secure local goods and services only from organisations that can demonstrate credentials consistent with environmental protection and minimising the contribution to harmful emissions;
- Engage with and support members of the community to contribute to environment and climate action projects;
- Actively seek opportunities to work with local authorities, NGOs, community groups and individuals to achieve sustainable goals in accord with the county strategy to achieve a net-zero carbon emission by 2030.

This Charter was formally adopted by the Parish Council of Stoke St Gregory on 17 April 2023