**Great Wakering Parish Council Environmental Policy**

Statement

Great Wakering Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency and consideration. It will aim to protect the local environment and biodiversity within its statutory areas of operation and endeavour to ensure that wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result of its activities.

Great Wakering Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared at both national and some regional levels. The Parish Council will consider any impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will introduce and continue to utilise measures that mitigate negative outcomes and support beneficial outcomes where this is legal, practicable and affordable within the limited resources and financial capability of the Parish Council.

Aims

The Parish Council will aim to consider:

* Any impact that operating its services has on the environment.
* The impact of any goods and services it procures on the environment.
* Where possible subject to statutory, resource and financial limitations the replacement of defunct inefficient assets with environmentally friendly ones.
* The impact its activities may have on the environment.
* The implications of health, social, environmental and economic wellbeing of its policies and actions.
* The impact any donation or award of grant monies to third parties may have on the environment.

In all its activities the Parish Council will:

* Continue to minimise the consumption of resources used in its activities.
* Continue to meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulation.
* Continue to use environmentally friendly products where practicable.
* Continue to use green/renewable energy subject to financial constraints.
* Continue to update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
* Continue to avoid the creation of unnecessary waste, including hazardous waste.
* Continue to recycle and reuse wherever possible.
* Continue to reduce the use of single use plastics and other single use materials.
* Continue to dispose of waste in a responsible and safe manner and in compliance with relevant environmental legislation.
* Continue to replace older defunct streetlighting stock with more energy efficient options subject to budgetary constraints.
* Continue to respect and protect natural resources.
* Continue to conserve and use energy and resources responsibly.
* Continue to ensure contractors are competent, have required training, qualifications, certification and experience.
* Continue to encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment where appropriate.
* Continue to use sustainable procurement and local contractors where appropriate and financially viable.
* Continue to minimise unnecessary travel.
* Continue to share good practice and energy initiatives.
* Continue to encourage Members and Officers to ensure that the best environmental policy is followed.

Adopted 26 January 2022