

INTRODUCTION

Some remarkable things have occurred almost simultaneously which might be seen to reinforce the need for focussing attention on the impact of climate change.

2024 was the hottest on record, and the last ten years have been the warmest on record.

The target maximum temperature rise of 1.5 degrees C over preindustrial levels by 2050 was exceeded in 2025, so the earth is hotting up much faster than scientists predicted.

We have witnessed massive destruction of most of a large city by wildfires driven by high winds.

Top level talks on addressing climate change (the annual "COPs") continue to fail miserably – there have been 29 COPs over which time fossil fuel emissions have risen 60%.

And we have witnessed hurricane winds getting stronger and causing more damage.

THE IMPLICATIONS

Extreme weather-related events seem to have got beyond the point of prevention, and these extremities are going to come our way. We now have accept the need to respond by mitigation and adaptation. High level governmental policies can help, but experience in the sustainability sector has shown that real positive action comes from the bottom up. This where our Parish Council can take a lead.

THE SUGGESTION

My suggestion is that the Parish Council hosts public meetings in Corscombe and in Halstock to invite parishioners to participate in a debate as to what actions might be useful to mitigate and adapt within the parish in the form of a Climate Action Plan. The principle would be that rather than the Council dictating a Climate Action Plan, people come up with a Climate Action Plan themselves, which they are more likely to buy into as a result, and which the Council might provide help to implement. Costs to be charged to the devolved services budget, since effectively this is emergency planning which is the responsibility of the government UK Health Security Agency.

Cllr Henry Lovegrove

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