

Notice of Motion

In listening to the national experts in the fields of nature and conservation over the last two years, they all affirm that Climate Emergency should read Climate and Environmental Emergency as climate and environment have a symbiotic relationship.

The adverse weather patterns across this country and the World, rising sea levels, flooding, rising sea temperatures are adversely affecting the environment, endangering numerous species in the Animal Kingdom, affecting food production and food security etc., etc.

No one can argue that there is not a Climate Emergency.

I acknowledge that there needs to be a discussion about the language. I appreciate the emphasis on the word 'Emergency' means different things to different audiences, but in declaring a Climate Emergency in 2021 and keeping it on each committee's agenda has shaped Torpoint Town Council's direction of travel with regards to energy efficiency, 'cleaner' and greener environmental practices, making small changes in our carbon footprint.

Even with our limited resources, we have honoured our commitment to the climate crisis doing what we can to make sustainable changes, changes that add up to making a difference, in our Torpoint Town Council buildings and our community.

Yes, from attending Cornwall Council's Climate Working Group over the last two years it is the villages and towns that are actively working for climate and environmental change, planting trees, protecting hedgerows, investing in solar panels, installing more efficient heat systems, car sharing, harvesting sea grass and re-planting it etc., etc.

But, members are correct, money is needed to make more seismic shifts.....a water taxi to take pressure off ageing ferries, a reduction in car use, a reliable transport system that encourages bus use, cycle routes,,, these things are on our wish list.

I remember when discussing the Motion I put forward about declaring a Climate Emergency in 2021, one member saying that if we declared a Climate Emergency we would have to do something...well we have been doing something, taking small steps along the way. Our Climate Emergency Action Plan evidences those steps.

There is an irony that the discussion whether to re-affirm our Declaration is happening at all and yet our officers will need to tick a climate box on any Cornwall Council funding application.

Having put forward the original motion to declare a Climate Emergency, I believe that Torpoint Town Council should re-affirm their support for the Declaration of a Climate Emergency and that our Action Plan should read Climate and Environmental Action Plan.

To rescind the Declaration would be, I believe, a retrograde step.

A motion is proposed that Torpoint Town Council re-affirm their support for the Declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Proposer: Councillor Christine Goodman

Signed: Date: 6th July,2025

Seconder: Councillor Marlon Spurling

Signed: Date 6th July,2025