

## **Dunchideock Parish Council Declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency**

Text of a Briefing by Cllr McCarthy to the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Councillor McCarthy gave a briefing regarding the increasing profile of the climate/ecological emergency in the media since his last formal statement on the subject in July 2019 and the progress other parish councils (e.g. Ide and Doddiscombsleigh) have made on the subject. He set out two approaches that Dunchideock Parish Council might consider adopting. The first was a simple statement to the effect that ‘Dunchideock Parish Council would take the climate/environment into account in all its decision making’ whilst the second was for the PC to declare a full Climate/Ecological Emergency. Councillor McCarthy recommended the latter approach and stated that in his view this would not only be a statement of solidarity with the numerous other parish councils/local authorities nationally who have now declared a climate emergency, but would also act as a catalyst for further action on our part. He stated that whilst we are only small parish, we can take positive action. Initially this could involve providing an information resource for interested villagers (e.g. via a dedicated section on the village website) but going forwards it might involve organising/hosting a climate and environment information event, and by identifying and helping bring in funding for positive climate/environmental action. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the most appropriate way forward in Dunchideock would be for the PC to formally Declare a Climate Emergency.