

Menheniot Green Terms of Reference

1.0 Background

1.1 At a meeting on 30 March 2021, people attending agreed that a new volunteering group should be formed that would support the council's aims to mitigate the impact of climate change.

1.2 The meeting asked that the new group should be council-backed for the immediate future and be focussed on carrying out projects that would involve the widest range of people across the whole parish.

1.3 In preparation for the launch of this group, this note proposes basic terms of reference that will enable the group to be established and have a formal working relationship with the parish council. They may be reviewed after 6 months or as required depending on experience and feedback.

1.4 The Terms are designed to provide a simple framework that will enable volunteers to act quickly with a light touch of control. Where parish council funding is involved, the normal rules of its grants and donations schemes will apply. These Terms will also provide other interested parties with an outline of what the scope and scale of the Group is.

2.0 Terms of Reference

2.1 The group will be known as Menheniot Green

2.2 It will be a working group of Menheniot Parish Council.

2.3 Its objective will be: To mitigate the effects of climate change and improve the environment in our parish. We will do this by carrying out tasks and other project work. We will achieve this working with our diverse communities, stakeholders and other supportive people.

2.4 The Group is founded on principles of mutual self-help and support; engagement with its stakeholders; promoting equality of opportunity; producing sustainable solutions; working with communities to improve their environment and quality of life. (see 3.3 below)

2.5 Other related objectives

- Lead by example
- Learn from each other
- Offer advice to other people in the parish (including being a critical friend to the parish council)
- Support, recognise and celebrate the good works we see

2.6 Activities

- Identifying projects and activities that will protect and enhance the natural environment
- Carrying out these projects in partnership with other people

- Fundraising to support our work
- Engaging with all parts of every community to achieve our aims
- Producing publicity material

2.7 Membership

- Menheniot Green has no general membership scheme.
- Residents do not 'join-up' but are encouraged to 'join-in' with practical help and support

2.8 How the group is managed

- The parish council will agree to set up a Steering Group made up of key land managers and influencers from the parish.
- This will include representatives from parish council, schools, sports clubs, church, agriculture, local volunteering groups, individuals who have specialist knowledge and skills that will support the aims of the group.
- The Steering Group may act as the conscience of Menheniot Green to guide and advise volunteers on project work and access to resources.

3.0 How Menheniot Green will work

3.1 Projects and tasks can be agreed by the Steering Group

3.2 The Group will assess proposals to get a consensus before proceeding

3.3 Its working methods will be based around the council's own Code of Conduct (the general principles of public life) and everyone associated with the group will need to agree to them. The group is:

- Open not closed
- Transparent not obscured
- Inclusive not exclusive
- Proactive not reactive
- Supportive not discouraging
- Welcoming and without barriers
- Teaching not preaching
- Sustainable and proportionate in its solutions
- Demonstrates leadership

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