



Who and how we want to be

These are our values. Minch CAN is a values-driven organisation. It is not about benefiting itself nor its members, but about honouring and promoting the principles stated here.

We believe

We have only the one world. The world we live on is the most important thing – we, our children, their children, and all future generations have no place else to go. We can't keep using the world up and leaving behind only rubbish and pollution. We can only take from the world as much as it's able to give.

We are part of something bigger. We share our world with our family, our neighbours, our community, with everyone. We have a right to a fair share, and a duty to share fairly with others – with those here now and equally with those yet to be born, just as people who came before us did their bit to safeguard and build the world we live in today.

We can do better. We can live as part of nature, and not against it. We can fulfil our duties and responsibilities, and work together to overcome any barriers to our doing so. We can take our decisions closer to home. Everyone can change and should be encouraged, without blame or shame, to change for the common good.

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Communities should be central to solving their own problems. The closer a solution is to the community it affects, and the more of the community that's involved in it, the better. With Minch CAN, we've come together because our lives, our jobs, our families, our friends, our countryside, and our communities are endangered. We've come together because together we achieve much more than we ever could apart. We've come together because we believe by working together, all of us, we will make our communities better.

In science. The more we know, the better the choices we can make. This means objectively, without pre-emptive opinion, tradition, or bias, gathering relevant data, analysing it to produce theories, testing theories to produce evidence. We are evidence-led.

Climate change is a crisis. Our world is warming, and as it warms our climate is changing, and as our climate changes it becomes harder for us to continue living the way we do, or indeed live at all. A warming planet is an imminent threat to us all, and the time available to us in which to act is swiftly diminishing. We must act now.

Pollution is a crisis. We are filling the world for centuries to come with harmful waste, in our air, our water, our soil, our food; with sewage, plastics, rubbish, throw-away reusable items, and chemicals and toxins. It's bringing us illness and disease, and is accelerating the destruction of the natural world.

The natural world is in crisis. The way we exploit the world for our needs is broken. The natural capital of the world – clean water, clean air, soil for growing, all the diverse living things – is dwindling. We use the Earth 60% faster than it can recover – the way we're living, we have only three-fifths as much planet as we need. Our natural life-support systems are failing, half of wild places have been lost, a million species risk extinction. Our economy, our lifestyle is unsustainable.

We will

Work to benefit our communities, not ourselves. We come from our communities to benefit the communities, landscapes and habitats on and around our many local

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Commons. We'll listen to and represent our communities. We're not looking to make a profit, and seek no individual award or reward.

Involve the greatest number of people possible. We want to reach everyone. Who you are doesn't matter; what you do does. We value the contribution of everyone in the communities we represent, and come together to unite and share, to each have a voice and to listen to what others have to say. To each make our fair contribution.

Move hearts and minds. We don't think it's up to us to tell people what to do, but we want to talk to them about their priorities. We think it's our role to present evidence, ideas and projects and then leave it up to people to change their own lives in the best ways available to them, and not necessarily ones we already know.

Build bridges. We listen to everyone, including people we disagree with, we shout no-one down, and no-one has all the answers. We're not party-political. We will create friendly and mutually-supportive relationships with individuals, households, and organisations that like us believe in a positive future.

Look after each other, our world, and our future. With faith in ourselves, our communities and our values, we stand up peacefully for what we believe in, and we do stand up.

We will be

Proactive. We can try out new ideas, and not fear failure: we'll learn. We can use less, make more of what we have, and not waste so much. We can live more simply, yet be happier. We'll be concerned and never indifferent.

Inclusive and accessible. We want everyone to be actively involved, regardless of age, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, race, religious belief, sexuality, or the length of time they've been a member. Every member is equal and encouraged to contribute. We'll work to overcome any barriers to participation.

Consensual. We aim for the greatest amount of agreement possible amongst our membership, and with the other individuals and organisations with which we work.

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Responsible members of the group. We'll be open and honest about whatever personal stake we may have in the activities of the group. We will not cause harm to another member. We will not take individual credit for the group's work.

Transparent. Our only causes are the ones you see here, we endorse no party or political candidate, and hope for them all to take our world's future seriously. We'll try to be open and honest, and never pretend to have answers when we don't. We're led by science and evidence and debate.

Sustainable. We will work as efficiently as we can, and always for a beneficial purpose. We will aim to create more value than that present in the resources we use, and minimise the detriment we make on our world.