

# WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## PARISH COUNCIL PRIORITIES

During 2015, a review of the effectiveness of the PC identified the need for aims and objectives. It was acknowledged that the council was essentially reactive leaving little opportunity for proactive strategic planning despite the number of meetings having been brought to a level appropriate to the size of the parish and intrinsic activities.

The conclusion that once the aims and objectives have been clarified, the 'structure' of the council would be reviewed to see how performance could be improved. This would include reviewing the allocation of responsibilities of individual councillors, the work that can be done in committees and in some cases the setting up of sub committees or working parties.

Following wider consultation, a number of volunteers have come forward to join parish council committees, as non-elected members, to help drive the council forward in its ambitions to fulfil the needs of the wider community and fulfil its objectives as follows:

### Parish Council Aims.

1. To provide the highest possible service to residents by ensuring:
  - Members abide by the council's code of conduct at all times.
  - Officers and member's decisions are guided by the 7 Nolan principles of public office: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership
  - Officers, members and groups to which the council is affiliated are kept abreast of developments in local council matters and all statutory matters by training and self-education.
  - Ensure that officers and councillors have access to high quality training and that they meet all the required standards.
2. To enable residents to be involved in the community and its future development, by promoting genuine transparency into the work of the parish council and to encourage input from residents. To provide effective, efficient and accountable local government, the council will:
  - Operate within the spirit of the government's transparency code, despite being beyond the threshold whereby it is obliged to – publication of agendas, minutes and accounts at the soonest opportunity;
  - Encourage collaborative input from residents and businesses regarding matters which affect their economic or social wellbeing. This will help inform the decision making process, with active consultation being sought on matters involving significant sums of money or a wide range of people;
  - Work to achieve early and informed resolutions to all issues.
3. To forward the interests of residents and businesses and to facilitate and encourage the prosperity of the micro- economy; the council will:
  - Encourage the prosperity of businesses within the parish and the immediate locality, so that jobs are available close by for local people and the future micro-economy of the immediate vicinity is as robust as possible.
  - Encourage and facilitate, if necessary, local business networking so that revenue is spent within the micro-economy and continues to support the growth of local businesses.
4. To work to improve the built environment, protect the natural environment and preserve the village heritage, the council will:
  - Respond to planning applications and other statutory consultations on time, ensuring that recommendations take into consideration the Village Design Statement and reflect the stated interests of the community.
  - Encourage sustainable small scale integrated housing development which will be proven to meet the needs of the immediate neighbourhood and wider community; Our villages will stagnate without a natural turnover of people from all walks of life or if developments are allowed to be 'ghettoised' or insular types of mono development.
5. Foster links with the Primary School, encourage activities for the none-core aged group residents and support local clubs and societies.
  - Promote third party activities and encourage clubs and societies which enhance individual wellbeing and minimise social exclusion and possible rural isolation. This applies especially to the 'harder to reach' groups e.g. Mums (especially) of young children, older single people and people unable to get out and about.
  - Facilitate leisure activities that will have a positive impact on the general health, mental welfare and social enrichment of people's lives, whilst ideally minimising additional pressures on medical services.
6. Provide and maintain facilities for leisure and recreation, (Fun Field, Play Park, Allotments, Pocket Parks.)

This document was adopted at Warmington Council's annual meeting in May 2016