**Hannington Parish Council’s Aims and Objectives**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide the Parish Council with information that will enable it to agree what will be its ‘Aims and Objectives’ for the remainder of this Council ie up to May 2019.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council agrees:-

i. a series of Aims, and the Objectives that will help the Council to meet those Aims.

ii. considers what actions/deliverables are to be targeted ie the ‘how’.

**BACKGROUND**

At the last meeting of the Parish Council, Cllrs considered a report on Risk Management. The Council agreed to defer discussion on this item (along with the separate report on Skills Audit) to the next in February when the Clerk would provide clarification as to the Parish Council’s roles and responsibilities. This would facilitate the Council agreeing what its objectives shall be for the immediate future and for the four year period of the current Council.

Once the objectives have been agreed, the Council accepted that it would be better placed to identify what the risks are that threaten the Council from achieving them.

**What are the powers, duties and responsibilities of a Local/Parish Council?**

The following paragraphs are a summary/extract from the latest edition of NALC’s ‘Good Councillor’s Guide’. The relevant section in the guide concludes with, “Of course, your council could always decide to do very little; but local residents might then wonder why the local council exists at all”. This very point was actually raised by the Council at its meeting!

The council has been granted powers by Parliament including the important authority to raise money through taxation (the precept) and a range of powers to spend public money.

The council is an elected body in the first tier of local government. Other tiers, known as principal councils or authorities, have many legal duties to deliver services such as education, housing, town and country planning, transport, environmental health and social services.

**Local councils have:-**

* the legal power to take action,

* but they have very few duties and
* [have] **greater freedom** [than the other tiers] **to choose what action to take.**

NALC’s conclusion is that “Parish Councils can play a vital part in representing the interests of the communities they serve and improving the quality of life and the local environment. Furthermore they influence other decision makers and can, in many cases, deliver services to meet local needs”.

**Issues that may concern parish councils include the following issues. Whilst the Parish Council does not directly provide these services, it does play a role in, or have an influence on the majority of them (see comments in brackets).**

- *planning,* (Planning Cttee, consideration of planning applications, attendance at BDBC Planning Cttee,)
- *highways,* (meetings with HCC Highways Dept, potholes, flooding etc)
- *transport and traffic,* (speeding review, HGVs,Transport)
- *community safety,* (Neighbourhood Watch)
- *cemeteries,* (annual grant to Parish Church)
- *playing fields,* (application of legacy to Michael's Field)
- *community centres,* (village hall)
- *litter,* (residents annual clear-up)
- *war memorials,* (Wellhead and Millenium Stone)
- *seats and shelters,* (new seat at White Lane, lost shelter!)
- *rights of way* (repair of bridleway, stile to gates initiative, footpath reps)
- *village green* (NALC did not include this item.. but I have.)

Some of the larger Local Councils may also concern themselves with housing, street lighting, allotments, etc.

Through its ‘Devolution Agenda’, Central Government is looking to encourage local councils to deliver more services and play a greater part in their communities. NALC suggests further examples could include the provision of or giving financial support for:-

- an evening bus taking people to the nearest town
- pond clearing
- redecorating the community centre
• a teenagers’ drop-in club
• a summer festival
• equipment for a children’s activity group
• transport to hospital,

and for the larger authorities perhaps even the provision of affordable housing to rent.

NEXT STEPS

Building on elements in the NALC Guidance...

STEP 1.

Ideally in the process, the Parish Council should first “Agree a Vision” (see Appendix).

STEP 2.

Agree a series of Aims

STEP 3.

Agree the Objectives that will help to deliver the Aims, and link them. Some Objectives may deliver against more than one Aim. An Aim may not have a related Objective.

STEP 4.

Ideally, each Objective should then have a Task/Action or series of Tasks/Actions that will deliver the Objectives. Examples of actions are provided in the ‘brackets’ above.

EXAMPLE QUESTION: where would the work on Broadband fit into the Aims and Objectives?

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT to Cllr Hertz in drafting the Appendix
**Hannington Parish Council Aims and Objectives Template**

**The Parish Council’s vision** is to improve the Quality of Life for all people of the Parish. To build upon the character and community spirit within the Parish whilst addressing their needs and encouraging all social sectors of the community to develop as an inclusive and vibrant community.

**Aims:**

1. To improve the development, appearance, environment, and quality of life in which we live.
2. To involve all local people in the life of the community and its future development
3. To be a strong voice on behalf of the local people and businesses
4. To work positively with other to the benefit of the community
5. To manage our finances and resources well and be an exemplar employer
6. To ensure that today’ improvements do not cause future harm - implement a Parish Plan

**Objectives to achieve these aims include:**

1. To communicate with our residents, relate their views, needs and aspirations to the appropriate statutory and non-governmental bodies, and...
2. To work with these organisations to ensure services and future development are responsive to local needs.
3. To support the work of village and voluntary organisations through BDBC and parish grants, and provide practical support where appropriate.
4. To increase public involvement through being open, transparent and accountable to our residents by:
   a. the provision of a public forum at every Parish Council meeting
   b. consulting those affected on planning applications and other matters
   c. reporting our activities and financial accounts through The Noticeboards and the Hannington web site and email, and supporting the same
5. To respond on time to all planning applications and other statutory consultations.
6. To improve and maintain public recreation space, e.g. village green and the local footpath/bridleway network.
7. To work with the BDBC and HCC to provide safe, healthy and timely opportunities for recreation, leisure and education by adding value to their statutory activities
8. To develop and support business and economic activity in the parish, including the encouragement of local residents to use local services, and actively support the improvement of broadband and mobile services.
9. To work with BDBC and parishioners to establish the processes that lead to the implementation of a Parish Plan.
10. To work with the GP Practices, the Primary Care Trust and others to ensure local people have access to the best health care. Particularly, having adequate public transport to hospital services.

11. Working in partnership with the business and leisure communities to improve the experiences of those using the facilities in the Parish.

12. To promote within our community, activities which support the principles of environmental sustainability and an ethical society, particularly as it relates to the welfare of individuals within our community.

13. Promote a safer community through liaison with local Police and the Neighborhood Watch

**Tasks that will deliver the Objectives....**

**At this stage, the organisation is better placed to identify the risks in delivering the tasks and thereby achieving the Objectives and meeting the Councils Aims.**

**CAVEAT**

As with all ‘processes’, the explanation is more complex, complicated and convoluted than the action itself e.g. try writing down the steps needed to boil a kettle!