



# WHAT IS THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR?

To act with financial integrity.

To improve facilities in the  
Village, and access  
to them.

To be responsive  
to the needs of  
the community.

To contribute to the  
development of a thriving,  
safe community.

To encourage environmental  
improvements and  
a reduction in carbon emissions.

To represent the needs  
of the community to  
regional authorities.

| STRATEGY GOAL                                             | TARGET                                                                    | ACTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | SUCCESS CRITERIA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| To be responsive to the needs of the community            | To ensure access to the Parish Council                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The council offices will usually be open every day.</li> <li>The Website will be available.</li> <li>We will hold our annual Parish Assembly.</li> <li>Our Parish meetings will be held in public.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council website will be monitored and kept up to date.</li> <li>Numbers attending Parish Assembly will increase year on year.</li> <li>Members of the Public will attend a range of parish meetings.</li> </ul>                        |
|                                                           | To provide information to the community                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council Website, Parish Magazine and social media will be used to disseminate information.</li> </ul>                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be Parish Council news in every issue of the Parish Magazine.</li> <li>The Council Website will hold all relevant Parish Council information/documents.</li> <li>Appropriate Facebook pages will carry Parish Council news.</li> </ul> |
|                                                           | To encourage involvement in village activities                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council will host events aimed at meeting residents.</li> <li>Parish Councillors will attend village events.</li> </ul>                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coffee morning and similar events will be held during the year.</li> <li>Parish Councillors will be present at a range of events in the community during the year.</li> </ul>                                                                     |
| To improve facilities in the village, and access to them. | The Parish Council will manage the Community Centre (FCC) as Sole Trustee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facilities at the Community centre will be upgraded and improved.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automatic front door.</li> <li>New curtains for main hall.</li> <li>Rooms decorated.</li> <li>Redesign of changing room space.</li> </ul>                                                                                                         |

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| To improve facilities in the village and access to them (continued)    |                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Community Centre will move towards financial sustainability.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCC will hold a May Fayre and Christmas Fayre each year.</li> <li>The FCC will hold other fundraising events during the year e.g. Quiz night.</li> <li>There will be increased booking rate for all rooms.</li> <li>Booking fees will be reviewed annually.</li> <li>Current users will continue.</li> </ul>                                                          |
|                                                                        | To manage open spaces, sports and recreational facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A suitable company will be employed to manage the green spaces, footpaths and other amenities as appropriate in the village.</li> <li>A suitable company will be employed to manage the sports pitches.</li> <li>A suitable company will be employed to maintain and advise on play equipment.</li> <li>Allotments will continue to be provided.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hedges managed.</li> <li>Bins emptied.</li> <li>Footpaths cleared.</li> <li>Seats available.</li> <li>Grass cut.</li> <li>Village green maintained.</li> <li>Sports fields will be maintained to good quality.</li> <li>Play equipment will be safe and well maintained.</li> <li>The Parish Council will be responsive to the needs of Allotment holders.</li> </ul> |
| <b>To contribute to the development of a thriving, safe community.</b> | To listen to and represent the views of the community.     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council will take every opportunity to respond to ECC, BDC (and new Unitary Authority) on matters pertaining to the village and surrounding area.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council will respond promptly on planning and policy matters.</li> <li>The Council will liaise with Braintree District and Essex County Councillors and any new body, e.g. Mayoral Authority, Unitary Authority.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                        |                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council will endeavour to provide for all members of the Community in an inclusive manner.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council will demonstrate actions aimed at encouraging participation by new residents in the village, and by young people.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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|                                                                           | To ensure a safe and secure environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council will take action to improve road safety in the village.</li> <li>• The Parish Council will consider impact of all policies and actions on crime in the village.</li> </ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council will purchase a new SID (speed indicator device) or MVAS (moveable vehicle activated sign) to encourage speed limit compliance in the village and monitor its effect via data generated.</li> <li>• Parish Councillors will participate in liaison schemes with local policing teams.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| To encourage environmental improvement and reduction in carbon emissions. | To optimise habitat protection.          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council will press for the maximum BNG (biodiversity net gain) in all developments in the village.</li> <li>• The Parish Council will manage green spaces to encourage species diversity.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council will be on record advocating for the retention and planting of trees and hedgerows and for <i>in situ</i> BNG on all developments.</li> <li>• The Parish Council's environment management company will comply with all guidance regarding hedge and tree trimming to ensure safety of nesting birds.</li> <li>• The Parish Council will have planted appropriate trees and pollinator friendly wild flowers, which will be thriving from season to season.</li> </ul> |
|                                                                           | Reduction of climate impact.             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council will ensure maintenance and enhancement of public rights of way and active travel routes.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All footpaths for which the Parish Council is responsible will be kept clear and accessible throughout the year.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                           |                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council will engage with schemes to encourage reduction in use of fossil fuels in the village.</li> </ul>                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council will have contacted the Energy and Low Carbon Team at Essex County Council for advice on such things as EV charging, insulation schemes and energy efficiency.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| <b>To act with financial integrity.</b>        | To adhere to the highest standards of financial integrity in all matters relating to Council business. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council accounts will be prepared for internal and external audit.</li> </ul>                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Responsible Financial Officer will have undertaken appropriate training and refresher courses.</li> <li>The Parish Council will scrutinise expenditure and income monthly.</li> <li>The Parish Council accounts will 'pass' the AGAR audit with favourable comments.</li> </ul>                    |
|                                                |                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parish Council will obtain best value for money for all expenditure and attempt to maximise income from all sources including grants.</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual precept will rise by a modest amount, usually not exceeding the rate of inflation except in exceptional circumstances.</li> <li>The Council will have applied for grant funding for appropriate projects during the year.</li> </ul>                                                        |
| <b>To develop councillor and clerk skills.</b> | To maintain and enhance the level of Councillor and Clerk expertise.                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual budget will include a suitable amount for councillor and clerk training.</li> <li>Councillors and clerks will attend appropriate training courses to enhance skills.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillors will have attended a range of training courses, either online or in person and will have fed back and applied learning from them.</li> <li>Clerks will have attended appropriate training courses and will report enhanced confidence with carrying out aspects of their roles.</li> </ul> |