

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL

FOUR YEAR PLAN

MAY 2021 – MAY 2025

FOREWORD

As a Parish Council, we are always trying to achieve the best for the village. We have considered our working practices and taken the decision to put a long term strategy in place in the form of a Business Plan. Its aims and objectives are as follows:

- To represent all residents of Flore democratically
- To provide the best possible service and amenities to meet the needs of all our residents and local taxpayers and to manage these within the most economical budget available
- To use Best Practice in all areas of its activities
- To forge partnerships with all other agencies to ensure that the wellbeing of our residents is enhanced
- To allow each and every voice of our community to be heard.

This plan is designed to form a long term vision for the Council to follow, many of the issues identified may take several years to be realised and significant sums of money will be required. It is our intention to review the Business Plan annually and to publish, progress and make any changes necessary as a result.

The purpose of the Plan is to;

- Set out the objectives and plans of the Parish Council, acknowledging the important role of community groups who have a vision in common with the Parish Council
- Help the Parish Council fulfil its role within the community
- Communicate the Parish Council's vision and plans to local people
- Provide a basis for local people to become involved in shaping the future of their village.

We would welcome your comments and would appreciate your views on its content.

If you require any further information that would help you understand our aims, please let us know.

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COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The work the Parish Council conducts is vital to the operation of the village and the community within it. It is equally important to keep everyone informed of this work and encourage community involvement and interaction. The Councillors all work on a voluntary basis.

The Parish Council appreciates the need for good, clear communication as this helps residents understand what the Council is doing on their behalf. We will listen to the views of local people and make representations on their behalf, whenever possible. We will promote our work via the Flore Messenger, Flore village website and Facebook.

We hope that this will encourage feedback that may help influence decisions and ensure they reflect the wishes of the community.

The Parish Council's website hosts a variety of information, include relevant paperwork in respect of the Council ie policy documents, financial statements, minutes and agendas of Parish Council meetings to name but a few. It also has a community page and details of business in the village, links and contact details of groups, facilities available etc. Our Facebook page contains brief information on the Council, and this is used as is a quick way to get information out to the residents. This is maintained by a Councillor and the Clerk.

The Parish Council will:

- Seek to find ways to encourage parishioners to attend its meetings so that they are able to see how the Council operates and understand the decision making process
- Continue to review its website and social media accounts and investigate ways to improve and enhance them
- Continue to review its policies and procedures to ensure that it is run in a legal and business-like manner

HOW WE WORK

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the URC schoolroom at 7.30 pm (unless the agenda states differently), to discuss all matters relating to the village. The Parish Council has a number of key areas that are looked at by individual Councillors and reported back at each meeting for consideration.

From time to time there may be a requirement for additional working groups to be formed for the duration of a specific project. Working Groups and areas of responsibility are listed below:

Finance Group	Kathryn Baines, Geoff Fellows, Chris Littlewood, Geoff Holden, Sue Halkett
Pension & personnel	Geoff Fellows, Sue Halkett
Environmental	Climate Change Group
Brodie Lodge Playing Field Committee	Geoff Fellows, Freya Davies
Millennium Hall Committee	Andy Anderson
Street Lighting and war memorial	Kevin Beasley

Parish council newsletter, Facebook	Freya Davies
Webmaster	Geoff Fellows
Highways representative	Simon Level
Tree warden	Chris Littlewood
Flood Warden	John Thomason
Footpath Warden	Nigel Strang
Village Assets	All councillors
Police Liaison Representative	Geoff Fellows
Town & Parish Council representative	Geoff Fellows
Internal Controller	Geoff Holden

OUR FOUR YEAR PLAN

Any issues identified by Councillors are discussed at our monthly meetings, and agreed actions are taken. These actions may be reactive such as fixing a bench or attending to a bus shelter, or they may be strategic and relate to projects for the future improvement of the village. Reactive actions are usually resolved quickly, strategic objectives require more planning.

The business plan sets out our strategic objectives during the next four years.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

At a high level, our strategic objectives can be defined as:

- To help create a socially inclusive, caring and economically viable community which embraces all its residents irrespective of age, culture, income, race, gender, sexual orientation or religion and which seeks to develop their wellbeing, knowledge, understanding and mutual cooperation
- To provide high quality, efficient, cost-effective and sustainable services
- To promote and encourage the provision of a range of leisure, social, recreational a community facilities in the parish
- To provide a channel for the views and expressions of the local community and to be responsive to its needs and aspirations
- To develop partnership and agency working with public and private sectors in terms of resources and finance for the benefit of the community
- To promote and encourage biodiversity and green energy
- To liaise with and support local community associations
- To develop partnerships with residents, local businesses and local organisations
- To develop council meetings as a method of public engagement
- To improve the Parish Council's role within the local community
- To be an advocate for local residents and business and to address local issues.

To meet these objectives we need to identify specific projects and areas for improvement. Some of our specific objectives for 2021 – 2025 are:

- To advance future phases for traffic calming and the linear green for the village
- To encourage and help to develop more facilities for people of all ages
- To ensure that Councillor attend training courses to keep them up to date with the law and best practice
- To consider planning applications in the parish and to comment accordingly, in line with general planning policy and the Neighbourhood Development Plan
- To report any planning or environmental infringements to the appropriate authority
- To locate suitable land for a community facility.
- To start reviewing the Flore Neighbourhood Plan.

What we have achieved over this period:

- Councillors regularly attend training sessions
- Questionnaire has been sent to the village re community facilities/sports hall
- Phase I traffic calming has been carried out
- Investigative work on major drains in the village has been carried out
- The Council comments on all planning applications. We have been supportive of some major applications, and we have opposed those which we considered to have a negative impact on the village
- Memorial garden has been set up. New granite stones, benches and tree planting
- Installation of two defibrillators, benches, litter/dog bins and adult exercise equipment (in partnership with Brodie Lodge Trustees)
- Footpath, Flood and Tree Wardens in place to investigate/resolve issues

Reviewed and amended August 2024