

Walberswick parish Council
Some longer terms issues
(Draft – 2/3/13)

What sort of organisation do we want to be?

(How do we behave, what assumptions guide us.)

We have signed up to a policy of:

- Openness
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Compliance with relevant legislation

How do we finance ourselves?

- The parish is funded by the “precept “ that is levied on all residents in the village as part of the Council tax collected by the District Council
- We receive no financial support from central government.
- Given that we are locally funded and that we are dealing with public money it is essential that we try to be as cost effective as possible and deliver the best possible value to the public
- We want to be able to deliver the service people want and over time will try to reduce the proportion of our funds that are spent on administration and other overheads

What is our Purpose?

(who do we serve, what value do we deliver, why do we matter)

- We serve all the people of Walberswick
- We provide services in the village. Maintain and develop play space. Keep village safe and tidy. Improve the facilities and village environment for the benefit of our residents, businesses and indeed tourists.)
- Make local people’s views known to other parts of local government in Suffolk

What we must do now and how will we make it happen> What are our goals and priorities and what action needs to take place.

Financial management

- In recent years the reserves of the parish have declined. They now stand at £XX. Last year the parish had to go to the District Council for a loan. The precept rose by 106% in 2012/13 to £16000.
- We will scrutinise all expenditure lines to ensure that we are achieving value for money and paying affordable costs

Policies and Procedures

- We need to ensure that we have the correct procedures in place to allow us to function efficiently and to comply with the legislative framework that applies to parishes.
- The delegations given to the Clerk need to be clearly spelt out

Correspondence with the public

- The volume of correspondence between residents and the parish council is far too high. Much of this correspondence involves SCDC and the Office of the Information Commissioner. Writing letters represents a massive cost to the parish. We have to find a more cost effective way of communicating with each other
- The volume of correspondence must be reduced to normal levels. Normal levels being one or two letters a month.
- If we do get a request for information we must try and respond quickly and in an open manner

Elections

- We need to ensure that there are candidates willing to stand for election in May 2013.

Document management and records

- We need to adopt a new policy and ensure that we don't retain excessive public records