



PARISH COUNCIL PLAN – 2024/25

The Parish Council's vision is to improve the quality of life for people of the Parish; building upon the character and community spirit within the Parish, addressing their needs and encouraging all social sectors of the community to develop as an inclusive and vibrant community.

Stillingfleet Parish Council aims to:

1. Improve the development, appearance, and environment in which we live; ensuring that these changes do not cause future harm.
2. Be a strong voice on behalf of the local people and businesses, representing their views.
3. Provide effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish supporting community-based activities whilst operating within agreed budgets and complying with current legislation and best practices.

The Parish Council’s objectives are:

- To operate in the community’s best interests within agreed budgets.
- To understand, communicate and support the views, needs and aspirations of residents by increasing public involvement and ensuring the parish council is open, transparent and accountable to residents.
- To support local businesses and economic activity in the parish.
- To maintain and manage the Village Green for the benefit of the community within the terms of the higher-level Environmental Stewardship agreement with the Rural Payments Agency.
- To ensure the village infrastructure and key facilities are maintained and enhanced to deliver our community’s existing requirement and possible future needs.
- To support the work of parish voluntary organisations in raising grants and providing practical support.
- To ensure our Parish Council is ‘fit for purpose’ and that councillors and staff are well briefed enabling them to act in and represent the best interests of our community by accessing high quality training and development opportunities evidenced by Council meeting the required standards of the Local Council Award Scheme initially at the Foundation level.

This action plan is a ‘live’ document informed by Community representation at meetings and Community engagement on social media. It will be updated on a regular basis, enabling the Council to track and monitor progress against objectives and timescales and will be published on the Parish Council website so that residents can monitor progress.

Planned Actions: S = Short term (12 months), M = Medium term (1-2 years), L = Long term (3-5 years), O = Ongoing

Aim 1: To improve the development, appearance, and environment in which we live; ensuring that these changes do not cause future harm.					
Planned Objectives	Timescales	Suggested Lead Councillor	Details	Funding Source	Update on progress
Management of Village Green	O	Richard/Nigel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain the green for the benefit of the community within the terms of the higher-level Environmental Stewardship Agreement. 	RPA Stewardship Scheme & Precept	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manage the annual haymaking ensuring that all maintenance work and vegetation removal has a minimal impact on biodiversity. Maintenance practices that are beneficial to biodiversity will be taken into consideration when contracts are placed. ○ Proactively remove invasive species and control trees as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species. ○ Ensure drains are cleared by their owners, incursions prevented, and the owners of leaking and crumbling sewage pipes and manholes made aware of their need for timely maintenance and repair of those structures. 		
Village infrastructure	O	Emma / Jonathan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure that key village infrastructure and facilities are maintained and enhanced to meet both our community's existing requirements along with possible future needs. ○ Specific projects identified include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play Area - Village Car parks - Addressing speeding concerns 	Precept & fund raising	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure all properties in the village the village get connected to Broadband Fibre ○ Ensure general maintenance and repairs are carried out in ‘open spaces’ throughout our village. ○ Pursue the establishment of a Community Speed Watch initiative for our village 		
Village Public Services	L	Jonathan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek to progress the Council’s application for the installation of First Time Public Sewage under Section 101a of the Water Industry Act 1991by agreeing an indicative construction programme which outlines the timescales for the delivery of the scheme. 	TBA	
Housing	L	John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As and when a suitable site is identified seek to progress an affordable housing development of approximately 4-6 properties to reflect the findings of the housing need survey and comply with North Yorkshire’s policy of affordable housing delivery 		
Planning	O	Nigel / Joanne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fully participate in all planning consultations representing the best interests of our community, stressing the importance of our conservation area and urging 		

			<p>compliance with the Village Design Statement in order to maintain the distinctiveness of our beautiful village and protect it from the impact of inappropriate development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use planning levers to object to unsustainable development and encourage the development of climate friendly future homes by recommending more thorough insulation and under floor heating so that they are ready for a heat-pump economy being introduced in 2030 as progression to a carbon-free world. ○ When commenting on planning applications, encourage site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats, protecting sensitive habitats from development and considering whether the future development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife. ○ Continue to represent the views of the village by strongly objecting to the development known as Heronby under North Yorkshire's Local Plan. 		
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Climate Change / Environment / Net zero / Biodiversity	O & L	John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Undertake an annual biodiversity audit to consider the impact on biodiversity in the Council’s decision making seeking to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity as a result of the council’s activities and identifying opportunities to increase biodiversity when practicable. ○ Work in partnership with other organisations and local businesses to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity and local nature recovery within areas of the parish. ○ Continue to explore opportunities to progress local green energy generation and consumption. 	Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund	
Health / Wellbeing / Risk Management	S & O	Annette / Richard / Ruth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a Community Emergency Resilience Plan to ensure the village is better prepared to cope with and respond to local and major emergencies (e.g. flooding, power outages, cold weather, damage to local infrastructure cutting off our community’s access to local amenities). ○ Undertake a systematic Risk assessment and management of the activities of the Parish Council to enable potential risks to be identified and take all practical and 		

			<p>necessary steps to reduce or eliminate the risks identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a First Aid responder hub ○ Ensure proactive Defibrillator management. ○ Encourage residents to volunteer for and take advantage of the Community Volunteer Transport scheme operated by Up for Yorkshire. ○ Encourage and maintain a “Buddy List” of volunteers able to provide assistance to more vulnerable neighbours in times of need. 		
Aim 2: To be a strong voice on behalf of the local people and businesses, representing their views.					
Planned Objectives	Timescales	Councillor Lead	Details	Funding Source	Update on progress
Communication & Community involvement	S & O	Lesley / Juan / Jonathan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Raise the profile of the Parish Council. ○ Implement a community engagement strategy to actively consult and engage with our local community. (e.g. by introducing Community Drop-in sessions and enhancing the Council’s website to improve the visibility of your councillors). ○ Partner with the Village Community volunteers to promote and encourage Community/social 		

			<p>events (e.g. Christmas celebrations, Summer fair, Scarecrow festival, Remembrance, D Day commemorations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Liaison with Village Institute and Church to enhance community engagement and involvement ○ Explore all funding opportunities and liaise with NYC and community groups 		
Aim 3: Provide effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish supporting community-based activities whilst operating within agreed budgets and complying with current legislation and best practices.					
Planned Objectives	Timescales	Councillor Lead	Details	Funding Source	Update on progress
Sound financial management, governance & accountability	S & O	Ruth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formulate 2024/25 plan ○ Agree 2024/25 budget ○ Calculate the 2024/25 precept ○ Ensure website is kept up to date & meets the Transparency Code requirements ○ Achieve a satisfactory internal audit evidencing effective governance & accountability 	Precept	
Council Development	O	Juan/Ruth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieve the foundation standard of the Local Council Award Scheme. ○ In accordance with the Council's Training & Development Policy, identify training needs and enrol councillors on training to ensure all Councillors and staff are capable of 		

			<p>fulfilling their roles and representing the best interests of our community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hold yearly meetings with individual councillors to discuss training, highlight issues, discuss ideas, give and receive feedback.○ Conduct a yearly documentation review to ensure ongoing topicality and adherence to upcoming standards.		
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