



Cuddington Parish Council

What is a Parish Council?

Parish or Town Councils are an important tier of Government within the UK; a Parish/Town Council is the most localised tier of local government in the UK and is a properly constituted local authority.

The powers and duties, and the way a Parish Council operates are laid out in local government statute and regulations; Parish Councils operate at a level below national government and below district and borough councils. Parish & Town Councils are elected and can help on several local issues, like planning applications or running local sports grounds and community village halls.

Government Definition

The Parish Council has legal responsibilities as an employer, and sometimes as an owner of public land and buildings.

Parish Councils are Statutory Bodies, having powers under several different Acts (the Local Government Act 1972, the Public Health Act 1936, etc.). Only a few Councils need to use all their available powers. It is up to each Council to choose what is appropriate for the community they serve.

The Parish council raises funds by the annual Precept which is set in January of each year. The amount required is guided by the setting of the precept budget meeting in the December preceding.

The Parish Council precept is added to the Council Tax bill and collected by Cheshire West and Chester Council (on behalf of the Parish Council).

The Council also raises funds through grants from other organisations.

Our Council

Cuddington Parish Council has ten members. The work of the members of the Council is voluntary, and the elected members (Councillors) give their time freely to help enhance the village and support the village's other organisations, for the benefit of all residents.

The Parish Council exists to help residents and to be a point of contact for ideas and suggestions for improvements in the village. The first point of contact is the Clerk to the Council.

We have one employee, the Clerk to the Council & Responsible Finance Officer, who manages all financial and administrative aspects in connection all Cuddington Parish Council's business. Cuddington Parish Council also financially contributes towards the Cemetery Committee's employees.

The Council owns some open spaces within the village.

Cuddington Parish Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the values of all three wards which are Cuddington, Delamere Park and Sandiway and to enhance the quality of village life and pride in these three wards.

Our mission is:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Work with Cheshire West and Chester Council, promote their "Report It" scheme and consider funding improvements CWAC not able/ willing to do.
- Subject to the availability of local volunteers encourage and support energy saving initiatives.
- Footpaths: work with the public and CWAC to achieve improvements and monitor maintenance issues.
- Promote regular litter picks around the village.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE

- Support and fund publication of the Round Tower Newsletter
- Support the Community website www.cuddingtonandsandiwayonline.org

and most importantly for openness and transparency, maintain and display legal documents on the Parish Council's website www.cuddingtonpc.uk

- Provide a grant to the management company of the playing fields
- Provide a Community Resilience Plan, for village emergencies
- Be aware of local Police issues by engaging with the PCSO regularly and seek to influence the work of the PCSO. Encourage greater visibility
- Promote Care that is available in the community and such services as "dial a ride" for those who qualify
- Encourage groups wishing to set up new activity groups in the village
- Provide representation on Cemetery Committee to direct and scrutinise

ROAD/TRANSPORT ISSUES

- Engage with Groups involved with Cuddington Station and the rail service
- Be pro-active in monitoring the bus services and look for improvements to the service in the village
- Consider funding road safety improvements which Cheshire West and Chester Council will not fund

ENGAGE, REPRESENT AND PROMOTE

The Parish Council is often a consultee to outside bodies including Cheshire West and Chester Council and its role is to represent and promote the Parish Area. The Parish Council is a consultee for all planning applications within the Parish area. The Parish Council considers all planning applications and where appropriate responds with comments/ recommendations. This provides the planning authority/ committee of Cheshire West and Chester Council a valuable local perspective.

The Parish Council works with Cheshire West and Chester Council on strategic planning issues. A Neighbourhood Plan was made, and it carries weight alongside local (CWAC) and national policies in the determination of all planning applications.

The Parish Council often works in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways Department. Examples of this are reporting any road maintenance/ pothole issues under the "Report It" scheme although the public are encouraged to do this as individuals. The Parish Council will highlight at its discretion any parking issues.

IMPROVING THE COUNCIL

To be open and transparent in everything we do. To strive to improve the performance of the Council. To be good and responsible employers. To provide good value for money and keep Parish Precept increases to within the cost of living unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Adopted by Cuddington Parish Council 16/05/2022.