

# COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 14th JANUARY 2020

## ITEM NO: 13 – Council Objectives 2020-2021 – An Initial Forward Look

Start of a process to consolidate our objectives as a Council for the forthcoming year

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### Information

As we move into the new Council year, and as we are now beginning to develop our various mechanisms for planning our work ahead, including a 5 Year Local Parish Plan, this paper sets out the parameters for a 'Forward Look' at those potential objectives to guide our work.

### Objective Formulation

We have different types of objectives centred on our work. They can be described as falling into three distinct categories:

1. Administrative Objectives
2. Development Objectives, and
3. New / One-Off Objectives

As a possible process we also need to consider where our objectives come from:

1. Our own thinking about 'what we want to do' and also 'what we have to do'
2. Response to consultations we may undertake, such as in the Annual Parish Meeting, and
3. Any developments imposed upon us – e.g. new legislation

Achieving a balanced programme to avoid over-promising on our objectives will be to look carefully at what we have a commitment to and managing that effectively. This will also enable us to plan our agendas forward in some detail over the next Council year (and possibly beyond).

To deal with this, a process needs to be in place leading to the publication of our objectives, in the first instance for 2020-2021 for the start of the new Council year, in May 2020.

### Initial Ideas

1. **Administrative Objectives** – these would include items such as the finalisation of our review of our governance information to ensure it is as up to date as possible; development of standard systems and documentation, such as for writing to land owners regarding ditch, culvert and overgrowth clearance etc; development of our use of IT systems etc. Also, new legislative requirements. Etc.
2. **Development Objectives** – as derived from our own planning including those contained already within our 5 Year Planning process such as continuity of the village signs project and benches project; commencement of the noticeboard project; further developments to our website and communications strategy.
3. **New / One-Off Objectives** – as derived from other 'inputs to our work which, subject to consultation outcomes could include the development of a Parish Design Statement; Community Transport Strategy etc.

Clearly, this list is neither finalised nor fully costed in terms of time and available resources (people / money). It could be that we find ourselves with too many ideas / commitments and working on a list such as this enables that to be assessed and managed effectively.

### Recommendation

That Councillors consider the Objectives which might be included under the three headings and submit them to the Clerk for compilation and consideration at our meeting in March 2020.

It is proposed that, within its remit, the 5 Year Plan AC act as a first consideration and drafting point based on the feedback for the report submitted to the Parish Council for discussion in March.

**SIMON LUCAS**