**WARCOP PARISH COUNCIL – STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2024 -2029**

**Serving the communities of Bleatarn, Coupland Beck, Sandford & Warcop** – Visit: warcop-pc.org.uk

**Overview**

This Strategic Action Plan provides a framework for Warcop Parish Council to work in the best interests of all who live and work in the parish. It sets out the Parish Council’s vision for the next 5 years ensuring that the PC can take a planned approach to achieving its objectives. It is hoped that this Strategic Action Plan will be a ‘live’ document setting out what the Parish Council can realistically achieve. The aim of this plan is to provide residents with a clear insight into the Parish Council’s desired outcomes and how it expects to deliver them.

**Timescales**

S – Short term (within 12 months); M – Medium term (1-2 years); L – Longer term (3-5 years); O – Ongoing

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| TITLE | Timescales | Details | Lead Councillor | Third Party Involvement | Update on progress and actions |
| **Environment and Parish Owned Land** | | | | | |
| Warcop Parish Cemetery  St Colomba’s Churchyard | L  L | Remedial work to bring the cemetery to an acceptable condition with an initial focus on safety.  In the longer term it is hoped the cemetery will become an attractive place of remembrance and reflection.  Develop a vision and plan for the churchyard closed cemetery | Councillor Clee  Councillors Parkinson and McDowall | Contractors as appropriate.  W&F Council  Parochial Parish Council  Churchgoers  David Wood (grass mowing) | A condition assessment was carried out in 2023 and **four trees were removed in March 2024 which will stop the root growth and resulting damage and allow the PC to arrange for repair and rebuilding of the wall.**  It has been decided that funds raised from funerals and plot sales will be used solely for the improvement of the cemetery in addition to budget allocation from the precept.  **The Parish Council is looking into the idea of installing a memorial wall.**  **AP and NM to assess the trees and walls in order to decide next steps** |
| Parish Assets | O | Keep assets in good order, maintain and repair as needed, ensure adequate insurance is in place where appropriate e.g. for assets which have listed status. | Councillor McDowall |  | Asset register has been updated. Ongoing monitoring of assets to identify necessary repairs/maintenance and use this to inform budget decisions. Annual renewal of insurance.  The bus shelter has been painted and shelves placed inside to enable books, plants, seeds etc to be swapped within the community.  Alan Burgess has been employed to carry out grass cutting in the parish and budget has been allocated to cover this.  Consider fencing around the war memorial budget permitting. |
| Litter | O | Encourage people in the community to reduce the amount of litter on the verges and roadside. | Councillor Syddall |  | Litter picking equipment is available in Warcop, Bleatarn and Sandford for everyone to use. It will be regularly restocked. |
| Biodiversity Enhancements & Provisions | O | To address the Biodiversity Duty and establish long-term biodiversity-friendly features in the Parish. | Councillor McDowall | Eden Rivers Trust | The Biodiversity Policy has been written and an action plan will be developed.  The Parish Council is enlisting volunteers and liaising with Eden Rivers trust in order to try and eliminate the invasive species Himalayan Balsam from riverbanks in our parish.  ‘Big Balsam Bash’ July 7th |
| **Community Engagement and Communication** | | | | | |
| Warcop Parish Council Website | S  O | Establishment and population of a dedicated Parish Council website  Continue to update the website to ensure it becomes an up-to-date point of reference for the community | Councillor McDowall |  | Website set up and online; relevant information has been uploaded and the website will continue to develop and be regularly maintained. |
| Community involvement | O | Encourage the community to engage with the PC in a variety of ways – enlisting volunteers for activities within the parish, seeking opinions from the members of the public on various matters affecting the parish. | All councillors |  | As well as the website, village noticeboards and The Way magazine are used to engage with the community.  There are ‘Meet your Councillor’ sessions occasionally incorporated into the monthly Saturday coffee mornings.  Events/activities in the community are supported eg donation to the annual rush-bearing event. |
| **Organisation** | | | | | |
| Warcop Parish Council Policies and Procedures | S | Identify and develop the policies and procedures needed to run the Parish Council, referring to The Good Councillors’ Guide. Review and update policies as appropriate.  Develop an Equal Opportunities Policy | Councillor Parkinson |  | Policies completed April 2024: Standing Orders, Health & Safety, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment, Grants Policy, Risk Management, Freedom of Information, Data Protection, Data Breach, Biodiversity, Transparency Code, CALC co-option of councillors policy.  A Financial risk Assessment Policy has been drafted and is with the RFO for comment. |
| **Transport and Access to Services** | | | | | |
| Traffic Management  Public Transport | M  O | Traffic monitoring and speed management in the villages  To support and promote bus services in the village. | All  All | W&F Highways | The Parish Council has been consulted and has agreed to support the lowering of the speed limit of the road into Warcop from the A66 from 60mph to 40 mph. |
| **Health, Safety and Well-being** | | | | | |
| Emergency Action Plan | S | Formulation of an emergency action plan plus accompanying risk assessment to enable the PC to help the community in the event of a weather, power outage or other possible emergency. | Councillor Parkinson |  | The emergency action plan and risk assessment are being written and relevant key points will be published on the website including points of contact. This will be regularly reviewed and updated. |