

What does North Somercotes Parish Council do?

The Parish Council meets once a month and we may also have additional meetings for projects, or to discuss Planning Applications for example, throughout the year. We also have an annual Cemetery meeting and an Annual Council Meeting, sometimes known as the AGM or Annual General Meeting. The Parish Council is also responsible for organising and chairing the Annual Parish Meeting on behalf of the Village.

The Parish Council is made up of 11 Elected or co-opted members – ‘the Council’ - led by a Chairman with a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer who carries out the legal administrative and finance functions on behalf of the Council. The Parish Council is responsible for a number of statutory functions and activities, including the following:

- Preparing a sound financial budget to set the precept for the area (to include any donations for local organisations)
- Keeping proper accounts and records of all transactions and monies spent in carrying out its statutory functions, and making these available for the public to view as required by law
- Holding a minimum number of meetings each year as necessary to carry out the business of the Council
- Managing the Burial Ground – the Twin Chapels and the Cemetery
- Grass Cutting at St Mary’s Churchyard
- Viewing and commenting on Planning Applications or any other consultations which affect our area or neighbouring areas.
- Maintaining the War Memorial
- Maintaining and cleaning the Bus Shelter
- Maintaining and cleaning the Public Toilets
- Dealing with any resident’s enquiries or complaints on the matters we are responsible for, and following them up
- Acting as representatives on other local committees eg Village Hall, Poor Land, Education etc, as well as participation in District and County wide committees and initiatives, eg Emergency Planning arrangements, Northern Area Committee meetings
- Working with local police, sharing information on crime and prevention
- Reporting any Highway defects such as pot-holes, drain problems, trip-hazards
- Reporting any lighting faults or sign post issues
- Reporting any Planning infringements or complaints
- Reporting Fly Tipping and requesting collection of rubbish
- Maintaining the Parish Paths and footpaths (ensuring walks are in a satisfactory manner and grass cutting carried out) through the County Council Parish Paths Partnership.
- Preparation and distribution of Walk Leaflets
- Providing parking and amenity areas, for example the proposals for Chapel Fields Car Parking
- Employing Staff to carry out its functions (3 Cleaners/Caretakers, Grave Digger and Standby, Cemetery Maintenance, Parish Clerk)
- Ensuring street rubbish/Dog Pooh bins are in good order, order new and replacement ones as required, including grit bins and contents
- Providing updates via website and entries in Communication magazine to residents

All Parish Council meetings are held in Public, usually in the Stable Room at the rear of the Trinity Methodist Chapel on Keeling Street. Members of the public are welcome to attend the whole meeting, and can ask questions during the time set aside to do so, which is normally 7.00 to 7.15pm. The Agenda and Minutes for the Parish Council Meetings are posted on the Parish Notice board as well as on the Parish Website, (<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/NorthSomercotes>)