

What does the Parish Council do?

Civil Parish Councils were established by the Local Government Act of 1894 but the Parish Council of Gawcott with Lenborough dates from 1980 when 'independence' from Buckingham was achieved. Since then, the Parish Council has acted as a forum for the discussion of local issues and for the provision and management of local services for the benefit of residents. As well as carrying out its statutory duties, the Parish Council supports local groups and institutions, including the Gawcott Community Group and Best Kept Village team with their community-related activities.

The Powers and Duties of the Parish Council are as follows:

Power	Service	Action by Parish Council
Bins	Litter/waste bins	Provision of bins and paying for emptying dog waste bins by Bucks Council
Borrowing	The ability to borrow money, subject to loan sanction approval, to carry out schemes in the Parish	No borrowings
Bus Shelters	Provision of the two bus shelters	Maintenance and management of the shelters
Churchyard and War Memorial	Contribute to the upkeep of the Churchyard & War Memorial	Grant given to Holy Trinity Church to assist with Churchyard maintenance. Assistance with the maintenance of the War Memorial when required
Defibrillator	Provision of the machine	Management and maintenance of the machine at the Village Hall. NOTE: The machine at the Playing Field is managed by the Winslow Junior Football Club
Green	The Village Green is owned by the Parish Council	Management and Maintenance. NB. The Library is managed by the WI
Hodding Wood	Leased from the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity	The PC has a new 21 year lease from the Charity. However note that the Wood was originally gifted to the Parish for the benefit of the residents of Gawcott
Lighting	Bucks Council provides and maintains the Parish street lighting	Continually chasing for delivery of the service
Litter	Clearing and tidying the Village	Occasional Village tidying sessions are organised to clear verges and streets in conjunction with Parish groups
Notice Boards & Website	Providing information	Notice boards are provided on the Green and at the Village Hall. Website at www.gawcottwithlenboroughpc.c.uk
Planning	Buckinghamshire Council is the planning authority and gives notice of all applications affecting the Parish	Councillors provide observations on all planning applications notified
Playing Field	The Playing Field, Pavilion, All-Weather Pitch, and Children's Play Area	The Field was given to the Parish in 1984 and is managed and maintained by the Parish Council on behalf of residents
Seats	Seats around the Parish	Provision and maintenance of seats on the Green and elsewhere
Signs	Signage and speed signs	Provision of Vehicle Activated Signs and other speed signage in default by the highway authority
Traffic calming	Reducing the speed of traffic	Provision of road narrowing features and maintenance in default by other authorities.
Verges	Planting and clearing litter	Planting bulbs on verges. Clearing litter. NB. Excluding cutting verges which should be carried out by the Bucks Council

The Parish Council's budget to provide and manage these services is approximately £19,000 per annum which is billed through everyone's Council Tax invoices. The seven Parish Councillors are unpaid and their time and expertise is given voluntarily. The Parish Clerk is also unpaid. Treasury and financial oversight services are provided for a nominal charge.

Any questions or queries about the Parish Council or the services provided should be addressed to the Parish Clerk at: parishclerk@gawcottwithlenboroughpc.co.uk

If you encounter problems with the services which are provided by Buckinghamshire Council, please get in touch with them directly. For problems with highways and street lights, report this through 'Fix my Street' website.

The two Buckinghamshire Councillors who represent this area are Charlie Clare and Patrick Fealey. They will be happy to assist with issues relating to services provided by the Council.

END.