

Q Who can (and can't) stand as a Parish councillor?

A To stand for election to a parish or town council, you must:

- be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland;
- be at least 18 years old
- not be the subject of any bankruptcy order.
- be an elector of the parish or in the past 12 months have occupied land or other premises in the parish (as owner or tenant) or work in the parish (as your principal or only place of work) or live within three miles of the parish boundary.

You cannot stand if, within five years before the day of your election, you have been convicted in the UK of an offence and have had a prison sentence (suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.

Q What title will I have?

A As a Parish Councillor you will be able to use the title 'Councillor' or 'Cllr' for short. You can use this title whenever you are acting or representing the Parish Council.

Q What is the purpose of the council?

A Main purpose - Representing the views of all residents within your parish.

Secondary purposes -

- As part of a local council you will have responsibility for running local services which may include: open spaces, play areas, village halls, community car schemes and potentially much more
- Deciding on how much to raise through the council tax precept in order to deliver your council's services
- Influencing and shaping the long term development policy for the parish, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications in the parish
- Improve the quality of life and the environment in your local area
- Working to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents you represent
- Working to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies.

Q What happens if I stand and am not elected?

A As in any democratic process there is always a risk of not winning. There is no shame in losing an election; it's part of public life. There will always be other opportunities.

Q What training and support will I receive?

A The Parish Council can enrol you on courses, some of which are arranged for an evening, that give you the foundation knowledge to be able to function as a Councillor. There are specialist courses available dependent on which committee you are a member of. There is always support available from the Chair, Vice Chair, fellow Councillors and the Parish Clerk. There is a maximum of 12 Parish Councillors on PPC.

Q Can I leave if I find it's not for me?

A Yes, you can offer your resignation at any time but we hope that your enjoyment of making a contribution to your fellow residents will persuade you to stay!

Q Am I personally responsible for anything as a Councillor?

A Generally speaking, no. The Parish Council is a corporate body which means that in law it has an identity separate to that of its members. The only exception would be an extreme case of negligence where a Councillor has acted contrary to Council policy, which may lead to personal liability.

Q Will it take a lot of my time?

A It can, but it doesn't have to. There are Parish Council meetings 11 times a year, including an Annual Parish meeting usually held in March. They start at 7.30pm, generally finish before 9pm but can run until 9.30pm, if business dictates.

You will also be expected to sit on at least one Committee. These meet at varying times outside of the monthly meetings.

Current Committees are: Economic Development, Finance, Grievance & Disciplinary, Library, Planning, Policies, Staffing & HR, Strategy.

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