

## Who Can Become a Parish Councillor?

**YOU CAN!** (subject to eligibility—see below)

You need no previous experience of local government to become a parish council member.

The normal route to membership would be to stand at the main election that takes place every four years (the last election was on 2 May 2019).

However, a person can serve on the parish council without having to complete that formal process. This is referred to as being 'co-opted'.

Co-opting can occur if:

- there are insufficient candidates to fill all parish council seats at election time, or:
- a seat becomes vacant mid-term

In either of these situations the parish council is required to consider co-option requests from eligible persons, in order to fill the vacant seats.

As a co-opted member, you are eligible to discuss, debate, and vote on the same issues as elected members.

### **Your Commitment**

Becoming a Parish Councillor requires a commitment to your community, and a small amount of time (usually no more than an hour or two per week).

As a Parish Councillor, you should be prepared to attend Parish Council meetings (usually once per month) and be a focal point for queries and concerns from parishioners, and to discuss and debate issues that are ongoing in, or that may affect, the parish.

Involvement can be very rewarding, and you CAN make a difference to life quality for yourself, neighbours, and fellow parishioners.

### **Eligibility**

The general eligibility requirements to become a Parish Councillor are:

- a person aged over 18 years
- a person who live in the parish, or within three miles of the parish boundary
- a person who owns or has tenancy of property within the parish
- a person whose sole or primary place of work is within the parish

(NB - Certain restrictions apply that could make a person ineligible to become a Parish Councillor, including bankruptcy, custodial sentences, etc.).

For further information please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council