

WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL

ELECTIONS 2025

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?



WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCIL?

Parish councils in the UK are vital in managing and improving the local environment and community life, especially in rural and small-town areas. While their powers are often limited compared to larger local authorities, they remain central to local governance, providing services and facilities, influencing planning decisions, and representing the views and interests of their communities. Parish councils' responsibilities continue to grow, especially with the opportunities provided by the Localism Act 2011, which has enabled them to take on more control over local planning and development.

Here you can see some bullet points indicating what parish councils do:

- Local representation
- Planning and development
- Managing local amenities and facilities
- Maintaining public infrastructure
- Community events and social activities
- Local funding and grants
- Consulting on local policies and issues
- Emergency and crisis response
- Supporting local heritage and environment
- Working with other authorities

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WHAT DOES WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL DO?

WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL PROVIDES MANY SERVICES TO THE VILLAGE WHICH INCLUDE:



- Street furniture
- Health & Wellbeing services & activities including a warm café space
- Closed churchyard maintenance
- Footpath maintenance
- Cemetery maintenance
- Grass verge cutting
- Hedgerow Maintenance
- Adult Education facilitator
- Salt Bins
- Street Lighting
- Youth Cafe
- Park Run
- Litter Picking
- Open Spaces Management and maintenance
- Planning Consultee
- Planning Consultee
- Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Event organisation and management
- War Memorial
- Christmas Tree
- Provision of playing fields and sports grounds
- Play Area
- Outdoor Gym Area
- MUGA ~ multi-use games area
- Pavilion - available for community and sports usage
- Junior Football Toilet Block
- Community Grant Provision
- Traffic Calming
- Allotments
- Newsletter
- Communications
- Employment
- Governance & statutory obligations
- Heritage preservation
- Public Clock Servicing



WHAT DOES THE CHAIR OF WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCIL DO?



“As Chair of West Haddon Parish Council, I am responsible for ensuring that effective and lawful decisions are taken at meetings of the Parish Council and that we follow Standing Orders. I am, of course, assisted by the Executive Officer in everything I, and we, as a Council do.”

“As a Councillor and particularly as Chair, I study all the relevant information forwarded on and anticipate the needs and interests of all the members and then answer questions or deal with requests for information as they occur by working closely with the Parish Council team.”

“The Chair of the Council is responsible for involving all Councillors in discussion and ensuring that Councillors keep to the point. As Chair I summarise the debate and facilitate the making of clear resolutions as well as keeping discussions moving so that meetings are not too long and drawn out. It should be noted that the Council is a body and decisions are made as such and the Chair / Councillors make decisions collectively unless delegated to do so. Councillors cannot act ultra vires. Council business is not concluded in one meeting a month – the business of the Council continues daily, and we are supported by a very small, dedicated team.”

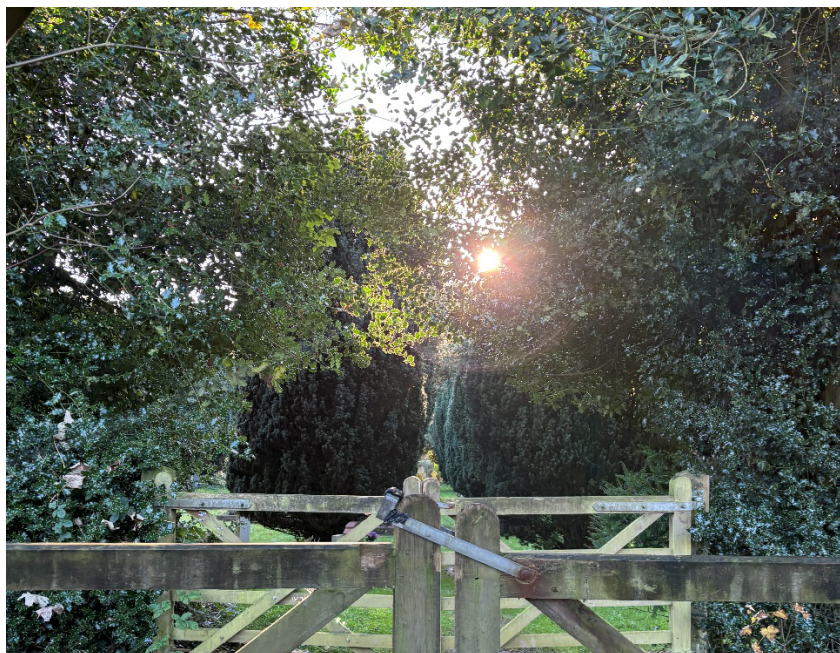
Statement from the current West Haddon Parish Council Chair - Pete Norman.



“I am now retired and so often spend a minimum of two or more hours per day working on items with the Parish Council team or reading emails etc for the benefit of West Haddon Parish Council. It is a full on role, but it is good to know I am giving something back to the community and making a difference.”

WHAT DO WEST HADDON PARISH COUNCILLORS DO?

Parish councillors are crucial for the local governance and well-being of their communities. Their role is diverse and involves a combination of decision-making, representation, community engagement, and management of local services and projects. They act as a link between residents and higher authorities, ensuring that local voices are heard and that their communities receive the attention and services they need.



“As Chair of the Events Committee, I also spend a lot of time working with the Executive Officer to deliver Picnic in the Park which requires many more hours of my time and effort. Picnic in the Park benefits the whole community which is one of the reasons I joined the Council. Basically, I wanted to give back to the village.”

“I am a business owner in the village and being a Councillor means I really am at the heart of the community and get to hear what people want, need and don't like.”

“I am the youngest Councillor currently on the Council and I am proud to be an active Councillor. It is important that Councillors get involved and are happy and able to go the extra mile for OUR community - often with little or no thanks or recognition for the hours put in. The Council needs doers not sitters! I really enjoy being on the Council and hope to be an ACTIVE Councillor for many years to come.”

“My name is Nicola Kendrick, and I have been on the council since Covid. The council takes up about 30 hours a month of my time but that is because I am currently Vice Chair to the Council and to keep track of the day to day decisions and management of the Council assets, services and facilities I am required to read and respond to all emails of which I am CC'd into and attend meetings as I also sit on various Committees. “

*“Statement from
the current West
Haddon Parish
Council Vice Chair
– Nicola Kendrick.”*

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO YOU NEED TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR AND HOW TO SIGN UP?

As a parish councillor, you'll need to have good communication skills, an understanding of local issues, and a commitment to working with others to improve the community. Whether advocating for residents, making decisions on local matters, or managing community assets, parish councillors are at the heart of local democracy.



TO STAND AS A CANDIDATE IN A PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION, YOU MUST:

1. Be at least 18 years old.
2. Be a British citizen, eligible Commonwealth citizen, citizen of the Republic of Ireland, qualifying EU citizen, or EU citizen with retained rights.

YOU MUST ALSO MEET AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Be registered as a local government elector for the parish from the day of your nomination.
2. Have owned or rented land or premises in the parish for the 12 months prior to your nomination and the election.
3. Have worked in the parish as your main or only place of employment during the 12 months before your nomination and the election.
4. Have lived in the parish or within three miles of it for the entire 12 months before your nomination and the election.

HOW TO SIGN UP:

The elections will be held on 1st May 2025. The elections are handled by West Northants Council for each and every Parish and Town Council in the area.

The link to find details of requirements and how to stand as a candidate for the forthcoming elections can be found by clicking on this link:-

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services/local-elections-2025>

Please note, the Parish Council does not manage the elections or candidates but if you would like more information about becoming a Councillor and what it involves in West Haddon, please contact the Parish Office by calling 07493366527 or emailing Gill at

executiveofficer@westhaddonparishcouncil.gov.uk