

Step Up for Your Community: Become a Parish Councillor

As the upcoming parish council elections approach, Wootton Parish Council invites residents to consider standing for one of the 12 seats on our council. This is a unique opportunity to play an active role in shaping the future of our community. If you meet the standard criteria for eligibility, we encourage you to step forward and make a difference.

Why Become a Parish Councillor?

Being a parish councillor is an incredibly rewarding experience. It provides a chance to influence local decisions, improve services, and ensure that the voices of residents are heard. With the ongoing devolution of responsibilities from the government to unitary authorities, and subsequently to parish councils, our council's role is becoming increasingly significant. This means more opportunities to effect meaningful change at a local level, addressing the issues that matter most to our residents.

Training and Support

We understand that stepping into a role like this can feel daunting. That's why we offer comprehensive training for all councillors. Training is not only available when you join but is ongoing and expected throughout your tenure. This ensures that you're well-equipped to handle the responsibilities of the role and confident in your ability to contribute effectively.

What we're looking For in Councillors

In the past, many potential councillors have expressed a desire to "give something back to the community." While this sentiment is admirable, parish councils have evolved and so have the expectations of councillors. Today, a councillor is expected to take an active role in the running of the council and the wider parish. Here are some of the key qualities and commitments we're seeking:

- **Engagement and Preparation:** Councillors are expected to attend monthly meetings, come prepared by reviewing the agenda in advance, and be ready to vote on issues. Abstaining from votes is discouraged, as it diminishes the representation of our electorate.
- **Active Participation:** Councillors are encouraged to join committees within the council, take ownership of specific issues, and contribute proactively to the work of the council.
- **Event Involvement:** Wootton Parish Council runs approximately 12 events annually. Councillors are expected to assist with a reasonable number of these, demonstrating their commitment to community engagement.
- **Computer Literacy:** A reasonable level of computer literacy is essential for modern council operations, from accessing meeting agendas to participating in virtual discussions when necessary.

The Benefits of Becoming a Councillor

Being a parish councillor is not just about responsibilities; it's also about personal growth and community impact. You will:

- Develop new skills and enhance existing ones, including leadership, decision-making, and teamwork.
- Build strong connections within the community and with other like-minded individuals.

- Gain a deeper understanding of local governance and the satisfaction of knowing you're making a tangible difference.

A Commitment, Not Just a Title

We want to be transparent about the commitment required. Becoming a councillor is not about simply attending meetings unprepared or offering minimal input. It's about being an active and engaged member of a team, dedicated to improving the parish and representing the community effectively. If you're ready to take on this rewarding challenge, we encourage you to stand for election and help shape the future of Wootton.

For more information on the upcoming elections and how to apply, please contact Wootton Parish Council. Let's work together to continue building a thriving and resilient community.