

Becoming a Parish Councillor in Newton-in-the-Isle

Many people think that the role of a Parish Councillor is largely ceremonial and involves little more than attending a few meetings each year. This couldn't be further from the truth. As County and District Councils face stringent funding cuts, more and more services are being delegated to Parish Councils, with a corresponding increase in workload and responsibility.

We're looking for people who can rise to that challenge, demonstrate leadership and make a commitment to improving the quality of life for everybody in Newton-in-the-Isle.

Knowledge and experience aren't essential, as there is plenty of on-the-job training and mentoring available. The essential element is a willingness to work as a member of our team to make a difference.

Could you participate constructively in the government of Newton-in-the-Isle Parish, playing your part in the formation and scrutiny of the Parish Council's policies, budgets, strategies and service delivery, ensuring, at all times, that the Parish Council is properly managed? You'll need to keep up to date with significant developments affecting the Parish Council at local, regional and national levels.

Are you willing to represent the interests of the whole electorate, alongside dealing with enquiries, representations and complaints from individual Parishioners?

We'll expect you to attend all Parish Council meetings, preparing beforehand and being properly informed about the issues to be discussed. You may also be appointed to a sub-committee or working party. We hope you'll take an active part in meetings and form sound judgements based on what is best for the community and then abide by majority decisions.

We're committed to open government and the democratic process, so it goes without saying that all members demonstrate proper standards of behaviour as elected representatives of the people, including compliance with all relevant codes of conduct and maintaining high ethical standards, for example not disclosing confidential information and not using council resources for personal or political purposes.

This list may appear quite daunting, but don't be put off. Being a member of the Parish Council places you at the heart of your community and is hugely rewarding. If you think you have what it takes to make a difference, please read the Good Councillor's Guide, which gives a broad overview of the workings of Parish Councils and the role of a Parish Councillor. Don't try to take it all in straight away; it is a useful reference source for the future.

If you have any questions or would like an informal discussion about the role of Parish Councillor, please phone Dave Gibbs (Chairman) on 870083 or Pat Wilkinson (Clerk) on 870271.