

Becoming a Parish Councillor

The Parish Council

Fishbourne Parish Council is one of the three tiers of local government, and represents the civil parish of Fishbourne with a population of approx. 2250 electors. The role of a Parish Council is to be the voice of the local community and it works to influence the decisions of local bodies that affect community life.

Councillors

Fishbourne Parish Council comprises nine Councillors including the Chairman. Parish Councillors are elected by the electors of the Parish every four years. A Councillor may also be returned by bye-election or co-option. All Councillors are required to complete a declaration of Acceptance of Office and to provide a written undertaking that they accept the Council's Code of Conduct. Individual Councillors work together to serve the community and to help the Council to make decisions on behalf of the local community. Councillors contribute to the work of the Council by suggesting ideas, engaging in constructive debate and by responding to the needs and views of the community representing their constituents. Councillors comment on proposals to ensure the best outcome and vote to enable the Council to make decisions. Councillors must accept the decisions of the Council as a whole even if they do not agree with it. In such circumstances a Councillor may ask for a vote against a Resolution to be recorded. Councillors are required to behave in an ethical way and to declare an interest when necessary. A Parish Councillor acts as part of a body - the Parish Council - and has no power to act individually on behalf of the Parish Council unless agreed by all Councillors.

Councillors will be allocated roles on the various Task Groups and Committees convened by the Council. Much of the work of the Council is done by the Task Groups and this process allows individual councillors to examine particular issues in some depth. Recommendations from task groups need to be approved by the full Parish Council except where a task group has been given a specific mandate to deal with an issue on behalf of the Parish Council.

Eligibility

A Parish Councillor must be over 21, an elector in the parish and qualifies by any of the following

- residing in the parish during the whole 12 months before either the day of nomination or the day of the election;
- residing within 3 miles of the parish;
- occupying as owner or tenant any land or premises there;
- having a principal or only place of work there.

It is the duty of a Parish Councillor to attend every full Parish Council Meeting (held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, except August when there is no meeting and December when it is the 2nd Tuesday) or have a valid reason for not doing so. Parish Council Meetings are held in the Blue Room at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne at 7.30pm.

How to Apply

Application is by a simple application form (attached). If you would like an informal discussion about the role, please feel free to ring The Chairman (Geoff Hand) on 01243 781692.