



Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor? It may be easier and more rewarding than you think. But 'what is involved' you may ask? Here is some background information you might find interesting.

What is a parish council and what decisions do they make?

Funded by the precept raised as part of your council tax, the parish council takes responsibility for a range of local matters and makes all kinds of decisions on issues that affects the local community. The most common are planning matters (council is a statutory consultees), crime prevention, bus shelters, managing play areas and recreational spaces and campaigning for better facilities. Councillors have an opportunity to make a real difference to their community, at a small cost in time and effort. It is true that on their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions. However, they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence other organisations that do make the final decisions.

Who becomes a councillor?

All sort of people become councillors with a broad spread of ages and a wide variety of backgrounds and occupations. What drives people is being able to influence decisions for the benefit of others and seeing their community change for the better, as a result of decisions you, the parish councillor, has helped make. As a councillor, you simply need to bring integrity and a common-sense approach and be willing to look for viable and pragmatic solutions. Being a councillor is not going to take over your life and in return there is the immense satisfaction of putting something back into the community.

If you are interested please contact an existing councillor or email the clerk clerk@pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk or visit the parish website at <https://www.pucklechurchparishcouncil.gov.uk> You will be very welcome.

And now for the legal bits:

Elections are held every four years and once elected, parish councillors sit on the council for a maximum of four years. If they then want to stay in the post they can stand for re-election.

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- be a UK or commonwealth citizen, or;
- be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or;
- be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union;
- be a least 18 years old.

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.