



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS 2 NEW MEMBERS

As Darren ('Nobby') Stiles and Barry Cooper have resigned as members of the parish council (PC), vacancies now exist for residents to replace them as members. The council would normally be required by law to give residents the opportunity to call on the district council to organise an election. However, the district council has informed us that the government has suspended all elections until next May, and that all vacancies must be filled by 'co-option'.

At our next parish council meeting, on 11th November 2020, therefore, the remaining PC members will be required to fill the vacancies by electing someone from any available candidates.

So far, only one person has volunteered to fill this vacancy but, if anyone else is interested, a summary of the role is set out below and our parish clerk – or any of the existing members - would be happy to tell them more about what is involved in being a member of the council.

As candidate details must be circulated to PC members by 4th November, you are advised to contact the clerk (see panel above) by **28th October 2020** so that he can help you to prepare the application.

Summary of the role:

The parish council is nothing to do with the church; since the Local Government Act of 1894 it has been the local level of democratic government. It is a group of 7 unpaid members of the local community who are responsible for providing services for the local people (see our website for details) and representing their interests in dealings with the district and county council levels of local government. To pay for the services we provide, we have the power to charge a "precept" through the council tax system – currently £3,000 per year.

We hold a full council meeting once every 2 months (usually at 8pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month) and some members also volunteer for extra committee meetings and other duties. Training and advice are readily available.

Our members are normally elected in local elections every 4 years (next due in May 2019) and must be British, Commonwealth or EU citizens over 18, who are not subject to a bankruptcy restriction order and have not, within the last five years been convicted of any offence involving a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine. They must also have satisfied at least ONE of the following conditions:

- Be registered as a local government elector for the parish
- During the whole of the preceding 12 months, have occupied (as owner or tenant) a property in the parish
- During the whole of the preceding 12 months, have worked in the parish
- During the whole of the preceding 12 months, have resided in the parish or within 3 miles (4.8 km) of its border.

Please contact us (see panel above) if you have any queries or would like more details.