



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?



Picture – volunteers at our annual litter pick

In 2027 we will be holding elections as the current four-year term of office comes to an end. Several councillors have expressed that they will not be standing next year for re-election.

As part of our succession planning, we are looking for people who may be interested in joining the parish council!

If you are interested and would like to find out more, either come and visit us at one of our meetings, or email the clerk for more information.

What does a Parish Councillor do?

As a Councillor, you will take part in our monthly full council meetings to make decisions on what enhancements should be made to the village, where money should be spent and what policies should be implemented. You may also choose to get involved with committee meetings, training sessions and community events. Before meetings, you will be expected to read the agenda and any papers, so that you can take part in discussions and decision-making.

There are lots of ways you can get stuck in as a Councillor, for example:

- Shaping local facilities and community projects
- Commenting to Cheshire West and Chester Council on local planning applications and developments
- Planning our community events
- Working with local groups, charities and volunteers
- Raising issues and concerns on behalf of residents
- You may also want to put yourself forward for a role within the council, such as Chair or Vice-Chair, for the full council, or for a committee.

As a **Councillor**, you will commit to abiding by the Code of Conduct, and to disclose any pecuniary interests that may affect your impartiality, e.g. employment, ownership of land or property, and business interests.

Are Parish Councillors paid for their work?

Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers. We do reimburse some expenses, such as mileage to travel outside of the village on council business, but we are unable (by law) to reimburse care costs.

Who can become a Parish Councillor?

To be a Parish Councillor, you do not need any special qualifications or previous experience. What you do need is a willingness to get involved, listen to others, and work as part of a team. To be eligible, you must meet the criteria outlined on the Electoral Commission website.

How do you become a Councillor?

Councillors are usually elected every four years at an ordinary Parish Council election. This is when all seats on the council are up for election. Councillors serve a four-year term.

If a seat becomes vacant between elections, it may be filled by a by-election or by co-option. The elected or co-opted Councillor will serve the remainder of the term and retire with other Councillors at the next ordinary election.

For more information please contact: Julie Ellis, Parish Clerk clerk@whitegatemartonparish.uk