



There are currently 2 vacancies on the Parish Council which can now be co-opted at a Parish Council Meeting

What do Parish Councillors do?

Wouldham Parish Council is made up of 8 voluntary councillors. They usually meet 9-10 per year to discuss and act on issues that are important to the local community.

It's true to say that on their own, Parish Councils have limited powers to make decisions. But they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those organisations that do make final decisions (such as the Borough or County Council, Health Authorities, Police etc. Probably the most common topics that Councillors get involved with are; planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, helping local groups, delivering events, managing open spaces and campaigning for, and delivering, better services and facilities.

The Parish Council sets a proportion of local tax to be spent in the Parish. This can be used to run and deliver projects that help, maintain, improve or enhance the local area.

Becoming a Councillor is a rewarding experience as you will be able to make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives.

How much time does it take up?

The 9-10 meetings a year, (usually starting around 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month) may last two or three hours, depending on the agenda set for each meeting. There are also smaller Working Groups to deal with specific subjects, such Roads, Footpaths & Lighting, Health & Safety, Planning, Administration & Finance and Open Spaces. These groups carry out actions i.e. report issues, research, check equipment and can carry out general maintenance as well as reporting/updating/suggesting new projects to full Council

In addition to these regular and Working Group meetings, Councillors may be invited to attend other meetings representing the Council, for example, acting as a representative on an outside body, helping at community events/activities or helping develop a new project for the community. Such meetings won't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life.

How long does a Parish Councillor serve for?

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?

You have to be:

1. a British subject, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union
2. over 18 years of age
3. additionally, you must be one of the following:
 - I. on the Electoral Roll for Wouldham Parish
 - II. have during the whole of the last 12 months lived in, or within 3 miles, of the Parish
 - III. have during that same whole 12-month period had your principal or only place of work in the council area or within 3 miles of it.

You cannot stand for election if you:

1. are subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order.
2. have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.
3. you work for the Parish Council you want to become a councillor for, (but you can work for other local authorities, including the KCC and TMBC that represent the same area).
4. You don't have to be connected to a political party.

If you do become a parish councillor you will have to sign up to the Code of Conduct.

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to come along to a parish council meeting, or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job.

If you are interested in applying and would like an application form or would like an informal chat about what it entails, feel free to contact the clerk:

Tina Miles: 07904 281522 clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk or speak to any of the current councillors

Closing date: 20th September, 2024

Wouldham Parish Council