

GREAT BEALINGS - VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor due to the recent resignation of Sally Johnson.

What is a Parish Council and why become a Parish Councillor?

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish and has an overall responsibility for the well-being of its local community. It is the level government closest to the community, with the district authority above it in the hierarchy. As it is the authority closest to the people, it is a vital part of any community.

What does it do?

It represents the local community, for example, as a statutory consultee in responding to planning applications.

It strives to improve quality of life in the parish by promoting issues that residents tell us are important, such as negotiating with the County Council and the Police to achieve reduced speed limits through the village. It also works in partnership with neighbouring towns and parishes, contributing to collective decisions of benefit to the parish and the wider community. Notable in this regard was the introduction of Quiet Lanes. It also contributes to the work being done to improve water quality in the River Deben and its tributaries.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

By becoming a parish councillor you become part of a team of people with a wide range of skills and interests who, collectively offer guidance and support to and make decisions for the benefit of the people we serve. It is not always easy, but is very worthwhile.

You do not need any previous experience but being a Parish Councillor requires some time and commitment and a willingness to undertake training courses. Expenses incurred in carrying out parish duties are covered.

How much time does it take up?

The Council meets bi monthly in the early evening, with occasional ad hoc planning meetings in the interim.

There is also an annual meeting which all parishioners are invited to attend.

Can I get more information?

If you would like more information about the work of the Council and/or the duties of its Councillors, please contact the Chairman Sue Prentice on 01473 738312 or email: chairman.gbpc@gmail.com

What next?

If any resident is interested in being considered for co-option to the Council now, please contact me as soon as possible.

Dee Knights, Parish Clerk – [Tel: 01473 624240](tel:01473624240) or email: greatbealingspc@hotmail.co.uk