Who would you represent?

Parish councillors are elected to represent a geographical area known as a ward or – mainly in smaller councils – the parish, town, community or neighbourhood council area as a whole. They are elected by people who live in the area. If the parish council is divided into wards an election is held in each ward, the same way elections are held in district or borough wards. If the council doesn’t have wards there is just a single parish council election. Parish elections are held every 4 years.

Nomination process

A prospective candidate must obtain and return a completed nomination paper to the Returning Officer of your District or Borough Council for the election. The candidate’s surname, forenames and residence must be entered with the number and prefix letter from the current register of electors. A copy of this register can be obtained from the Returning Officer or possibly the Clerk to the Local Council. The nomination paper must also be signed by and contain similar particulars of a proposer and a seconder. These must be electors for the area for which the candidate seeks election (i.e. the parish, community or town or the ward if it is divided into wards).