

# **Have you ever considered standing for co-option to become a Parish Councillor for Bovington?**

## **How to become a Councillor**

10 Councillors sit on Bovington Parish Council. As a Councillor, you will be responsible for representing the local community in matters including planning, outdoors activities, Parish finances and the Memorial Hall.

The present council's term of office ends in May 2027.

## **Who can become a Councillor?**

You can become a Councillor if you are:

- over 18 years old;
- Commonwealth citizen or citizen of the European Union
- An elector and have resided in the parish or within three miles of it or occupied, as an owner or tenant, land or premises therein or have your principal place of work in the parish.

## **Do I need any qualifications?**

You do not need a formal qualification to become a Councillor. Life experience is the most important asset that a Councillor can have, and Councillors often have transferrable skills from their jobs or volunteer work.

## **How much time will I need to give?**

The time you will spend on Council duties will vary depending on how much you choose to take on.

As an example, you are likely to spend your time:

- communicating with local residents;
- attending meetings with parish office staff about issues raised by residents;
- attending Parish Council and Committee meetings – usually held in the evening. You might be expected to attend approximately 14 meetings each year;
- attending meetings of any outside bodies that you represent, and,
- preparing for meetings.

## **If I am elected, will I get any support or training?**

All newly elected Councillors will be offered training organised by the Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils. We will provide a welcome session and an introduction to the council for all new Councillors. You can also seek guidance and advice from existing Councillors.

## **Will I be paid to be a Councillor?**

Parish Councillors do not receive a salary, although you are able to claim within reasonable limits, for any travelling costs and other expenses incurred in carrying out council business.

## **What do I do next?**

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please contact Gemma Coventry, Parish Clerk on 01442 833036 or by e-mail [office@bovingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bovingdonparishcouncil.gov.uk)