

Weedon Bec Parish Council needs You !

As a result of recent resignations, the council need to fulfil their quota of councillors (13) and this means we need to co-opt an interested party to the council. We wanted to share some information that may help you think about being what being a Councillor means and hope that you will consider joining the 'team'

Can I even be a Councillor?

- if you are over 18 years old and you are on the electoral role you are eligible to apply

What does being a Councillor mean?

- You will have an interest in and be keen to improve our village to make it a better place to live
- You could bring skills, viewpoints and ideas to the council
- You can engage with the local community and find out about issues of local concern and help provide a voice for the community in the council forum
- You will be a good communicator who can listen, be objective, ask questions and provide feedback to our community
- You will help to determine how the council should spend its money
- You will be able to attend regular meetings

How does Weedon Bec Parish Council work?

- We have some guidelines to work to known as the code of conduct. In addition we work with respect for others and with the best interests of the village at heart (it's a bit like running a small business nowadays!)
- We have some routine matters and local services that the council are responsible for like; Grass Cutting, Playing fields and equipment, maintenance jobs, Street Lights, Cemeteries and Allotments maintenance, renewals for tenders for contracts, regular inspections around the village
- We comment on planning applications received in the parish – this is an important role
- We have work groups in order to progress projects for example: providing new play equipment, investigating and implementing a bore hole for Riverside allotments, Under Arches parking near the church, dealing with and rectifying the problem with the Mound contamination and other improvements as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan which will benefit the village
- We work to identify and resolve issues which are important to the residents that you represent
- Each year, we must decide on how much to raise through the council tax in order to deliver the council's services

How much of my time is needed ? I go out to work so it could be tricky!

- OK....let's be honest hereup to perhaps 5 hours per month would be realistic however...
- Some of our Councillors have full time jobs, some part-time and some are retired
- **Parish Meeting** is every first Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm and normally last no longer than 2 hours - you are requested to attend but apologies for work, holidays or illness are accepted
- **Planning Committee** – there may be a meeting each month on third Thursday if there are planning applications to consider and usually last around 1-2 hours
- **Work Groups** – are more informal and meet regularly to progress projects throughout the year – usually 1-2 hours for a meeting maybe monthly:
- **Work groups are:** Playing Fields, Environment, Cemetery and allotments, Planning
- **Other time:** reading minutes and preparing for a meeting by being properly informed, offering to progress work group tasks, attending training courses, equipment inspections, talking to Residents - an hour or so or maybe a few hours per month (maybe you have lots of spare time??!!)

What if I can't commit to being at every meeting?

- That's OK – we have already said that as long as you send your apologies in advance, missing an occasional meeting is OK
- You could always send in your comments prior to a meeting for consideration

Does it matter if I have not lived in the village long?

- No, not at all – you may bring different ideas and views to the council forum that may not have been considered before

Do I get paid ?

- Easy answer is No – however you will be very well thought of to volunteer your time for the benefit of the village
- You will get paid mileage for attending training or meetings away from the village
- Only the Clerk and the Litter Pickers are paid employees of the council
- It would look good on a CV if you are looking for a job however !

But I don't know any of the Councillors?

- That's fine – the important matter is that you can be a representative and voice of the community
- On the plus side, it is an opportunity to get to know more people who live in the village

I don't use a computer?

- That's fine – we can still work with paper copies if necessary
- It might be an incentive for you to learn to use email and a computer? Other people will help!

I have no experience of being a Councillor?

- Training courses are available
- other Councillors can offer to help you through a mentoring role in the early days
- Having the enthusiasm to be part of a very important volunteer team is the most important factor

How do I let you know that I'm interested and would like to be considered?

- Talk to the Clerk to find out more - Sue Halkett 341057
- Talk to other Councillors to ask questions about 'what being a Councillor means' to them
- Come along to a council meeting to observe what goes on
- Write a letter/email with your name and address letting us know what qualities and skills you could bring to the council, perhaps the interests you have in the village and how this might benefit the council

Address to Sue Halkett, Parish Clerk 16 St Mary Ways, Weedon

Email to: Weedonbec-pc@btinternet.com

Looking to the future, in May 2016, the council will be subject to local Parish Elections, and at that time we would hope there are more than 13 applicants for the 13 positions so that a proper election is carried out.

Whilst this is sometime away, if being a Councillor is not something for you right now, please consider it for May 2016 ?

Website: WWW.WEEDONBEC-VILLAGE.CO.UK has lots of additional information about the Council