



What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish.

It is the level government closest to the community, with the county and city authority above it in the hierarchy.

As the authority closest to the people, we are invariably the first port of call people go to with their concerns or ideas.

For this reason, we are a vital part of any community.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

If you've never been to a parish council meeting before, you may be forgiven for thinking that parish councillors are a group of (probably older) people who meet now and then in a draughty village hall.

If, however, you live in a community when something 'big' has or is about to happen, you'll know that's when people in the community need support and guidance and it's the parish council that you turn to.

As a parish councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve.

Seeing your community change for the better as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that will give you a sense of achievement and pride.

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

On their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions.

However, they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions and, in this respect, parish councils are extremely powerful.

The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and our views are taken seriously.

Parish Duties

Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council has 15 councillors.

The duties and functions of a parish council are many and varied so it is an interesting position to hold.

We have various committees covering Community Assets & Open Spaces, Planning & Highways and Finance & General Purposes (Staffing).

The meeting frequency varies from bi monthly, monthly through to fortnightly, typically they can last 1-2 hours.

More information can be found here: <https://wroughton.gov.uk/meet-the-councillors/>

We discuss and decide upon planning applications and any other matters referred to it by local residents.

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

All meetings are advertised on the council notice boards, the website and Facebook.

Residents can bring to the attention of the parish council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the clerk.

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing the job now.

Please feel free to contact any of our councillors or the Clerk directly on

01793 814735 clerk@wroughton.gov.uk