



Local Elections 2023

Waldringfield needs you!

Be a Councillor!

What is a Parish Council

A Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government. It is a Local Authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people of the Parish. As the authority closest to the people of the village, we are often the first port of call for local people to go to with concerns or ideas. The Council plays a vital role in advocating for the village at all levels of government and for helping to improve and support the community.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

As a Parish Councillor, you will become someone our community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the ability to influence decisions that impact our parish, and participate in taking decisions to benefit the whole community. It is very meaningful to see the change that can be made and how it benefits our whole community.

How much time does it take up?

Councillors are elected for a 4 year term. The Council meets 11 times a year (Monthly with the exception of April) for about 2 hours on a Tuesday evening. Sometimes we have additional meetings, and Councillors also contribute in other ways such as represent the Council on various community groups (such as the Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership and the Village Hall Trust). There are special project working groups that would benefit from councillor participation, which is a voluntary decision for each councillors. In a nutshell – it won't take over your life.

Am I eligible to be a Councillor?

You have to be:

- A British subject, or a citizen of a commonwealth or European Union country
- Over the age of 18 on election day

Additionally, you have to be one of the following:

- A local government elector in the council area you are seeking election in
- Have during the whole 12 months preceding the election occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the council area or within 3 miles of it.
- Have during the same period had your principal or only place of work in the council area or within 3 miles of it.

Be a Councillor!

You cannot stand to be a Parish Councillor if you:

- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
- Have, within the five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the UK of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.
- You work for the council you want to become a councillor in (but you can work for other council's or local authorities, including the principal authorities that represent the same area)

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Probably one of the main issues the Council gets involved with is planning issues, as we are a statutory consultee in planning applications for the Parish. While we are not the decision-making body, the Council's views are sought on planning applications in and around the village allowing us to have a say in planning in the village.

The Council also owns and manages the playing fields and seeks to ensure this is an engaging place for our young people. The Council also seeks to support the community and its community organisations to improve the quality of life in Waldringfield.

While as a body, the Council has limited power to make big decisions, we do collaborate with our District and County councillors and advocate for change and resolving issues. Our opinions are sought and carry weight in those discussions.

What are the Parish Council's duties?

Waldringfield Parish Council has 9 Councillors. Due to the variety of functions being a Councillor is a really interesting position to hold.

The Council is responsible to the residents of the Parish to make decisions wisely, with strong fiscal management and for the benefit of the community.

We organise events, maintain equipment, respond to residents who identify village issues or concerns, as well as the business of the Council – such as considering planning applications, audit, reviewing progress from working groups and hearing from our District and County councillors, who endeavour to attend.

Have we convinced you yet?

The best way to find out whether you'd like to be a councillor is to come along to our meeting! See what we do, and have a chat to the sitting councillors. We are a friendly, approachable bunch, with experienced councillors there to support you should you decide to join us! Our next meeting is **14 March 2023** – at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (Kennedy Room). Please feel free to join us!

For more information, please contact Jennifer Shone-Tribley, Clerk at pc.waldringfield@googlemail.com or by phone 01473 736475.