

Parish councillorDorset Council Area To become a Piddle Valley Parish Councillor

The Parish Council provides the first level of local government and offers an opportunity for individuals to make a difference by influencing decisions that affect the local community. It is important that we have a diverse council with different backgrounds and interests in order to better understand and serve the community in which we live. Details on what is involved in being a Parish Councillor can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk/DAPTC-Web/UserFiles/Files/Good-Councillors-Guide%202018.pdf>
<http://piddlevalley-pc.org.uk/> or by contacting the Piddle Valley Parish Clerk on 01305 757307.

On 2nd May 2019 elections for the PVPC are scheduled. The process is relatively easy, but is strict and if not followed exactly, will result in disappointment and rejection for the wrong reasons!

Parish Councillors are elected by the public and normally serve 4 year terms in office. However, due to the formation of the new Dorset Council for the 2019 and 2024 elections the term will be 5 years to bring them in line with national county and unitary elections, they will then revert to the usual 4 year term.

If you wish to stand as a councillor you must satisfy these requirements:

- You need to be over 18 years of age
- A British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union
- Plus at least one of the following qualifications: they are registered as a local government elector for the parish or town council area in which they wish to stand; or they have, during the whole of the previous 12 month period, occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises in the parish or town council area; or their main or only place of work during the whole of the previous 12 month period has been in the parish or town council area; or they have, during the whole of the previous 12 month period, lived in the parish or town council area (or within 4.8 km of it)

You cannot stand for election if you:

A person cannot be a candidate if at the time of their nomination or their election:

- they are employed by the parish or town council or hold a paid office under that council; or
- they are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order in England or Wales; or
- they have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence) without the option of a fine, during the five years before election day (i.e. since 1 May 2014); or
- a person may also be disqualified from election if they have been convicted or reported guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court, or if they have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority

1. Publication of the Notice of Election.

The Returning Officer (normally the Chief Executive of the Council) has the duty to call an election. Notice of Election will be given on Friday 15th March 2019.

Notices will be available on the Council website and distributed to Parish and Town clerks for them to display.

2. Getting the nomination forms

Nomination forms will be available to download from the Dorset for You website or contact the Piddle Valley Parish Clerk on 01305 757307.

4. Returning nomination forms

It is imperative that you submit your forms in accordance with the election timetable and can ONLY be delivered by hand and by appointment. Failure to do so will render your application null and void!

Checklist:

- Do not forget to get **everyone** mentioned to sign the forms
- Ensure that all addresses are in **full** with no abbreviations
- Include the whole Electoral Register reference **letters and numbers**
- **Be careful not to miss important dates**