

MILFORD-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL



The Old Clock House - 22 High Street - Milford-on-Sea - Hampshire - SO41 0QD

Website: milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Email: clerk@milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01590 644 410

Parish Clerk: Graham Wells

Asst. Parish Clerk: Sarah Pitt

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE PARISH COUNCILLORS

This paper will help you decide if you wish to put yourself forward as a prospective Candidate for co-option as a Milford-on-Sea Parish Councillor. The most important considerations you will need to ask yourself are:

1. Eligibility: *Am I eligible to stand as a prospective Councillor?*

If you are over 18, are a Commonwealth citizen, have lived or worked in the Parish for more than a year and are an elector, you are more than likely eligible.

2. Time: *Do I have sufficient time to serve my community?*

How will being a Councillor fit in with my family life and work commitments? How many meetings will I have to attend?

3. Teamwork: *Will I be able to work well with my fellow Councillors?*

Will I be able to accept democratically arrived at decisions, which may not always concur with my own thinking or views?

4. Expertise: *What experience do I have to offer our community?*

What am I good at and what expertise will the Council be looking for, which I may be able to offer?

Having recent experience in any of the following areas will be of help:

planning – finance – working with youth – affordable housing – environment – conservation/ environment – preservation – education – traffic management – charring meetings – previous experience as a Councillor or serving on committees

Even if you have no experience of any of these things, but feel you have something to give to the community and our village, this is just as important so do put your name forward.

Full Parish Council meetings are held once a month, usually on a Monday at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. The Planning Committee also meets **monthly** on a Monday evening at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. Many other working groups are formed and meet as and when required. The Parish Council **AGM** is held in **May** and the **Annual Parish Meeting** (where residents meet members) is held between March and June, usually at All Saints Church Hall.

Councillors are SUMMONED to meetings and MUST attend unless they have a 'statutory reason' for not attending (e.g. holidays, work commitments and being unwell) or their failure to attend is approved by the Council.

Councillors must complete a **Declaration of Members Interest** form, which makes publicly available information relating to both yourself and spouse, such as land holdings, interests, details of employment, membership of organisations and share holdings **within the Parish**. As part of the **Declaration of Acceptance of Office** (which is completed at the first formal meeting of the Parish Council after co-option) a Councillor agrees to accept the **Model Code of Conduct**, which governs their actions as a Councillor. Full details of the Code of Conduct and other forms that have to be completed are available in the Parish Office. **If you do not accept the Code of Conduct, you are not eligible to stand as a Councillor, so please ensure you are familiar with these requirements before you put forward your request to be considered.**

Some of the other reasons for ineligibility for being a member of the Council are: bankruptcy or compounding creditors, criminal conviction resulting in a prison sentence of more than three months or corrupt or illegal practice.

What the Parish Council Do

The Parish Council makes valuable observations on planning issues. It manages amenities including: managed woodland (the Pleasure Grounds and their footpaths), Studland Common and Meadow and their footpaths, bridges, ditches and culverts and Baskets field (grazing project), the children's Play Parks at Carrington Lane and Hurst Road, Barnes Lane Recreation Ground (cricket and football), the Bowling Club, Milford Village Green, Keyhaven War Memorial Green, Village floral displays and various memorial seats and benches distributed around the village and along the sea front promenade and cliff top.

The Parish Council is represented on many local groups, associations and community facility committees and in many cases appoints representatives to these bodies. The Parish Council works in close partnership with these groups and associations, the District and County Councils, the New Forest National Park Authority, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the New Forest – Land Advice Service.

For further details contact the Parish Clerk – Graham Wells – on 644410 or email: clerk@milfordonseaparishcouncil.gov.uk