

Would you like to make a difference to your community?

Why not become a Parish Councillor?

There are currently 2 vacancies on the Parish Council so if you have the interest of your community at heart do consider putting yourself forward. If the number of councillors continues to fall we will be at risk of losing control of our own local affairs and others will be making more decisions for us. The choice is yours.

What are the powers and responsibilities of the Baydon Parish Council?

The Parish Council has more formal powers and responsibilities than most people realise. The Parish Council is consulted by and liaises with both the District and County councils over all issues affecting the parish and sometimes the wider community - particularly over planning, traffic and road issues.

Baydon Parish Council's powers cover 50 functional areas. For example, it has powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures. Powers to acquire land and maintain open spaces for the benefit of the public. It has the power to improve and maintain the quality of village life by spending sums of money on items and projects, which, in its opinion, are in the interests of the parish or its inhabitants. The Parish Council may do these things either directly or by helping others, such as volunteers or a charity, to do them. Baydon Parish Council makes grants to appropriate groups and charities whose role is to improve the quality of life for its residents.

In simple terms "the parish council is the custodian of the parish charged to maintain its environment in all aspects for the benefit of the parishioners".

Why would I want to be a Councillor?

People become Councillors for many reasons:

- To speak on behalf of the local community and to help local people
- To contribute business or professional skills
- To shape the future of the local community

Councillors play a vital role in shaping and directing the effectiveness of local services for the benefit of local people. Councillors work with the Police, Health and other public bodies and with the private sector in order to achieve these aims. The position of the Councillor is vital in the local community as the voice of the community and the champion of the users of local services playing a vital role in the overall effectiveness of local government.

What is the role of a Parish Councillor?

- To represent the ward and the views of its residents at grass roots level
- To work in areas of community leadership
- To plan, run, develop and monitor parish council business
- To always work in the public interest

Isn't being a Councillor time consuming?

No. The amount of work involved depends on the level of activity of the Council or how much you want to affect the community in which you live. Baydon Parish Council meetings are held on Monday nights at approximately 6 week intervals. They commence at 8pm and last a maximum of 2 hours. So, if you can spare a couple of hours a month you'll definitely have the time to be a Councillor.

How much will I get paid?

Unfortunately there is no provision for a Parish Councillor to be paid but there is great reward to be gained by serving your community at grass roots level. Though you may be reimbursed for expenses, there is a limit to how much may be claimed.

How do I apply?

Send a letter of application to the Clerk, Liz Carmichael, Baydon Cottage, Ermin Street, Baydon SN8 2JP or email baydonparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk