



Your Newsletter

For residents of Braysdown, Carlingcott,
Peasedown St John and Woodborough

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Your Parish Council Needs You!

We currently have some vacancies on the Parish Council and we are looking for local residents who wish to get involved and make a real difference to their community.

Becoming a parish councillor offers a unique opportunity to actively shape and improve your local community. It allows you to represent the needs and concerns of residents, influence decisions that affect the area, and contribute to making it a better place to live. It's a chance to make a real difference by getting involved in local governance and community development.

What does the Parish Council do?

Peasedown St John Parish Council is the official public body responsible for the day-to-day running of the village. There are up to 17 councillors and 7 members of staff. The Parish Clerk, who is full time, works with a team of staff in the Parish Office which is in Beacon Hall.

The Parish Council is not party-political, but deals with the running of the village at a "grass roots" level. It is also not a religious organisation and is completely separate from the parish churches, although they work alongside them in relation to some civic events, such as Remembrance Day.

They are separate from Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) which has greater legal powers and responsibilities for the wider area, and ultimate responsibility for the infrastructure within the village, such as roads and pavements. The Parish Council works with B&NES as a consultee on matters such as planning applications, boundary reviews, highway changes and other issues that may impact the local area.

Councillors set the annual budget/precept which is used to pay for the areas below, together with any new projects which they decide will be of benefit to the electorate.

Christmas Displays	Floral Displays	Recreation Ground and Football Pitch	Street Lighting
Braysdown Allotments	What facilities is the Parish Council responsible for?		Beacon Hall
Hedge and Grass Cutting	Ecewiche Green	Ashgrove Cemetery	Beacon Field

What's it like to be a Parish Councillor?

There are eight Full Council meetings every year, which all councillors are expected to attend. In addition to this, councillors get involved in other committees (such as Planning, Staffing, Finance & Governance or Amenities & Facilities) according to their individual interests. Most meetings are held in Beacon Hall on a Tuesday evening, but some smaller meetings take place online. The amount of time involved in being a parish councillor will vary. Some councillors spend many hours a week and some just a few, depending on how much time they are able/willing to give. It is an unpaid role, but the majority find that being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way to contribute to their community by helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Enthusiasm, passion and patience are really the only skills you need, because you can learn everything else as you go along. You don't need to have loads of money or to be super educated - councillors are just ordinary people. If you are not sure what to do, there is always somebody around to help.

There are lots of tasks to get involved with, from watering the Jubilee Garden, to inspecting the changing rooms at the Recreation Ground, or planting trees. There is much more to being a councillor than just boring meetings!

You do need to be over eighteen to become a councillor but we have had several younger members as councillors in the past, who have made a very valuable contribution.



What do Parish Councillors do?





Lots of different things!



Fiona - Our Newest Councillor



"Do you want to make a difference? I moved to the village seven years ago and was immediately impressed by its community spirit. I decided that I wanted to get involved with the local community and was offered the opportunity to become a Parish Councillor. Before becoming a Councillor I was not aware of exactly what the Parish Council did. I was surprised to learn of the extent of its duties including responsibility for the Cemetery, Allotments, Beacon Field, Beacon Hall and the Football Pitch. Before starting I was concerned that being a Parish Councillor would take up a lot of my time. I was pleased when I was told that if you choose to, you could just come to the Full Council meetings which are held 8 times a year and last for 2 and a half hours. There is some pre-reading which you can do at your leisure. If you have more time to give, you can also sit on Committees such as Planning or Finance. I had not done anything like this before but found my fellow Councillors very willing to help and support me. I believe that being a Parish Councillor is a great way of supporting your local community and Parish Council."

Conor - Our Youngest Councillor

"I stood for co-option in late 2018 when I was 24, and then stood for election in May 2019. I wanted to be part of the Parish Council after levelling criticism at some of the past decisions, so wanted to have my say and put my money where my mouth was (in the proverbial sense). Standing as an individual, independent Councillor, has been hugely rewarding. I have enjoyed making a positive contribution to our village and getting involved in projects like the Recreation Ground paths, even leading on the Coal Mining Cart, Telephone Kiosk Planter and Jubilee Garden projects. There is so much scope if you're able to spare the time and unwavering enthusiasm! I would encourage anyone with an interest in and passion for the village to consider being a Parish Councillor. Come along to some of our meetings and get to know us and the work of the Parish Council."



Kathy - Our Longest-Serving Councillor



"In a few words, why for most of my adult life I have been an elected Parish Councillor, an unpaid position, and continue to serve the residents of this parish.

It all started when Esme Latchem was sent to find 3 likely residents to be co-opted to vacancies on the Parish Council. I was one of a few who were persuaded, none of us had any aspirations to be parish councillors. Peasedown St John was a smaller village then, divided by the A367. At busy times of day it could take 5 minutes to cross the road as cars, tractors and heavy goods vehicles thundered by. The facilities were abysmal, a few broken swings on the recreation ground, a dilapidated building where our children attended a playschool. Some older residents like to reminisce about how good it was then, but that is not my recollection of the village I came to live in 50 years ago.

Our village is so different these days and I am proud of the part I have played in the transformation. As a Parish Council we have taken risks and spent your money on projects we believe you appreciate. We upgraded our footway lighting to LED, the open spaces are a credit to us, Beacon Field, Ecwiche Green, and the Recreation Ground all with accessible gates. I am particularly proud of the Garden of Remembrance, children's play areas, games area and skate park, the dog exercise area and our Jubilee Garden. Beacon Hall and the Canteen on the Recreation Ground are available for council meetings and for hire by the public. A major project for this year is to build a wildlife pond on Ecwiche Green and plant some trees on Beacon Field which in a few years will provide shade for our residents.

If you feel that you too can contribute to our magnificent parish then now is the time to start thinking about it."

Sounds interesting...how do I find out more?

We currently have four vacancies on the Parish Council which can be filled by co-option. This is an ideal opportunity to see if being a Parish Councillor is something you would like to do, without any long-term commitment.

The co-option process is very simple:

1. You fill out a form to provide us with a few details and to confirm your eligibility for the role.
2. We will then invite you to come along to our next Full Council meeting where you'll get a chance to meet the existing parish councillors.
3. If you decide that you would like to give being a councillor a try, we take some further details and welcome you to the team!

If you have any questions, please contact our Parish Clerk, Sam Nash (contact details on the front of this newsletter), or call in to the Parish Office in Beacon Hall to have a chat.