



Are you interested in joining the Parish Council?

Becoming a Councillor

There will be local council elections this May. Perhaps you are interested in becoming a parish councillor but don't know what's involved.

A councillor is a member of the council and is normally elected for a term of four years. People of any political or religious persuasion are eligible to become a councillor, although their personal views should not extend into their parish council work.

Overstrand Parish Council has got two vacancies at present and you can be co-opted onto the Council. However, in May 2019 all parish councillors will go through an election process.

Becoming a parish councillor is a rewarding and valued form of public service. All councillors contribute to the work of the Parish Council by:

- Having a say about the things they care about
- Putting forward ideas for better services
- Responding to the needs and views of parishioners
- Seeking the best outcome to local issues
- Getting involved in decision making
- Helping to make Overstrand a better place to live!

We normally meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Meetings commence at 7.30pm lasting around 2 hours at the Parish Hall. Councillors are expected to attend meetings on a regular basis.

You can read about the forthcoming election process on the [Electoral Commission's website](#).



The Role of a Councillor

They are elected to represent the interests of the local community as a whole and promote a harmonious local environment. The number of elected councillors depends on the size of the area. In Overstrand we are able to have 11 councillors.

Local councils are the first tier of governance and are the first point of contact for anyone concerned with a community issue. They are democratically elected local authorities and exist in England, Wales and Scotland. The term 'local council' is synonymous with 'parish council', 'town council' and 'community council'.

Local councils are made up of locally elected councillors. They are legally obliged to hold at least one meeting a year. Most meet on a monthly cycle to discuss council business and hear from local residents. District councillors regularly attend parish meetings to report back to the district on developments at parish level. County councillors are also invited to attend parish meetings when the parish council feels it is appropriate, and they have a standing invitation to attend and report at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors must abide by a Code of Conduct (copy on website); a set of rules on how councillors are expected to behave. They must also declare their pecuniary (financial) interests in the parish, details of which are kept on a Register at North Norfolk District Council.

Being a parish councillor can be an interesting and rewarding experience.

If you need any further information please contact the Clerk on 01263 576766 or clerk@overstrandparishcouncil.org.uk