

# Chelmondiston Parish Council

## Becoming a Parish Councillor

A councillor is elected not only to represent their constituents but also to take decisions affecting the area of the council as a whole. They may have many different roles including corporate decision maker, corporate employer, policy formulator, representative on external bodies, citizens advocate and corporate protector of their parish and its environment. A suitable qualified person may become a member of a local council in several different ways. However, the most common ways are by:

1. **Ordinary election.** The interval between elections is 4 years. The Election Day for districts is the first Thursday in May.
2. **Local election.** Following a vacancy; if 10 electors for the Parish request an election in writing to the Returning Officer of the District Council within a certain period of time an election will be held. Otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.
3. **Co-option** to a casual vacancy. The co-option process is less formal. If you wished to be considered for co-option, you would need to complete an application form. We ask that you attend a parish council meeting so you can see how the Parish Council works. If you then wish to proceed with your application we will item your application on the next agenda ask you to come along and give a brief outline of your experiences and reasons of wanting to become a Parish Councillor. A decision will then be made by the Parish Council on your application.

**Am I Eligible to Be a Parish Councillor?** Please refer to the Electoral Commission for information on Parish Councillor eligibility ([linked here](#)).