



**Oh no,  
THEY  
can't do  
this!**






**This is awful,  
SOMEONE  
should do  
something!**



**Wait, aren't  
YOU  
someone?**

## Do YOU stand up for what you believe in?

Why don't you consider becoming a **Parish Councillor** in **Nether Wallop**?

Residents 	Councillors 	Clerk 
I don't know what the council actually does...	We are elected representatives for the local community which covers Nether Wallop, Jack's Bush, Hollom Down, Lopcombe, Warren Court and Danebury. We look after the maintenance and upkeep of various Parish owned assets and facilities, comment on planning applications as a consultee, and work with the Borough and County Councils whenever possible. We can decide our own projects, (subject to having the legal power to carry them out) and spend public money on publicly supported schemes and community assets. We also listen to residents' concerns in the public session of our meetings and if necessary add the subjects to the agendas of following meetings. Anyone can attend, there is no "entry list" !	I check the council act lawfully, guide on process, & handle admin & finances.
How are councillors chosen then...?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By election, where electors are encouraged to vote for councillors that will represent their interests and concerns. We didn't have an election in May 2019 as we didn't have more candidates than seats (spaces for councillors) on the council.</li> <li>2. By co-option. This is where there is a vacancy on the council but an election has not been called. Councillors can "choose" to vote in candidates that they think will be suitable.</li> <li>3. By nomination. If you know someone who you think would fairly represent residents' views, you can always make a suggestion to the council. Councillors can then approach the nominee to them to find out if they would be interested to make an application. Referrals are terrific!</li> </ol>	
I am not really into politics...	We prefer that councillors don't bring their own political views to the Parish Council. We are concerned with what is best for the parish, not central government.	
I don't think I am that sort of person...	Why on earth not? There isn't a type! Councillors represent the views of the community, so people from different walks of life are needed and welcomed. You just need to be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Polite, courteous and fair in meetings and while representing the council.</li> <li>2. Openminded and happy to listen to and consider the views of others.</li> <li>3. Prepared for meetings having read the back-up papers beforehand.</li> <li>4. Happy to work electronically and respond to emails.</li> <li>5. Able to stay awake for 2 hours in meetings without snoring.</li> </ol>	
I probably don't have the right qualifications...	You probably do, because no formal qualifications are needed. The only important thing is that you are IT literate and have facilities to access emails and documents sent via the internet. We need people from different backgrounds, with differing abilities, who are team players, get actively involved in problem solving. It doesn't matter whether your skills are from a professional career, from voluntary work or from the school of life. The most important thing is that you care about Nether Wallop Parish.	
It's all about the NDP though, isn't it?	Nope, that is one project that the council is taking forward, but we have others... The Safe Travel project is moving forward and the village playing fields refurb / upgrade is another one we want to work on next year. What else is important to you? Or what can you suggest?	
I am probably too old...	There is no upper age limit, people with life experience are very valuable. You have learnt a lot, why not help others with the knowledge you have?	
I am probably too young...	Well, if you are over 18, what's stopping you? We also need some younger people to represent views of teenagers and young families. The council is not just for retired people.	
Are there any exclusions to being a councillor...?	A few, if you: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are employed by the local authority or holds a paid office under the authority</li> <li>2. Hold a politically restricted post within a local authority, as defined in s.2 (1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989; or</li> <li>3. Are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order; or</li> </ol>	

	<p>4. Have within five years before the day of election been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence) without the option of a fine; or</p> <p>5. Has been disqualified under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which relates to donations and other offences).</p>
I am not sure I can commit to meetings...	The council only meet once per month (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday). It's ok if you need to miss one or two meetings. Do you really have a firm commitment for something on a Monday evening anyway?
I don't think I have enough spare time.	You probably only need 1 or 2 hours a week to keep up with emails. Meetings take roughly 2 hours, and you probably only need 1 or 2 hours to prepare for meetings. Lots of councillors have full time jobs and families. It isn't onerous, but the more you put in, the more you will get out.
I don't want to come to the village hall on dark evenings...	Well at the moment you don't have to! Until May 2021 (and maybe longer if the Government agree), the council can hold all their meetings online. We are currently using Zoom and it is working well. So you can sit at home and still participate. Yay! You could attend the next virtual meeting to see what happens!
I don't live in the village...	That's ok, if you have worked (as a main place of work) or lived in the <b>parish</b> or within three miles of it, during the whole of the 12 months before the day of co-option, you are eligible.
I haven't lived here long...	If you are a UK or Commonwealth citizen / citizen of the Republic of Ireland / citizen of another Member state of the European Union and registered as an elector in the parish it doesn't matter, otherwise it's just 12 months minimum if you comply with the above
I am working on job searching and my career right now...	Being a councillor will look great on your CV, don't you think? It also gives you something to talk about in interviews explaining your responsibilities and duties in the parish. Remember, employers like people that are "givers".
I don't like filling in forms...	It's not too bad! There are only two forms, and the Clerk can help you. Don't let that put you off.
Won't I have to declare business interests...?	Well yes, the Declaration of Interest form completed at the outset asks you to list business interests within the parish area, to guard against bias when parish issues are debated. As for personal affairs, well, don't you think everyone in the parish knows about those already?
Will I get paid?	Nope, sorry! This is a job you do for the love of it and your own personal satisfaction. The only member of staff is the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer who is required to be appointed by law.
Won't I look a fool if I don't know what's going on...?	You will be eased in gently; there is help, advice and training available. The clerk is the officer of the council, and she will be able to explain the rules and give you a "New Councillor" welcome pack. You will soon get the hang of it.
Why should I be bothered...?	Well, airing your views or complaints on FaceBook or NextDoor.com or other social media, rather than at council meetings, will not change a thing in your parish. If you can't be bothered, it's not really fair to criticize those who do make an effort! Being a new councillor is good news, it means fresh ideas and fresh enthusiasm for the council. Please be bothered to step forward!

**See how many of the below apply to you...**

- I really care about the area I live in and am enthusiastic to make positive changes.
- I would like to do something to make everyone's quality of life better.
- I am able to listen to other people's views with an open mind.
- I am interested in finding new projects for the council to implement
- I don't have formal qualifications, but I am practical, and I like communicating with people
- I am a team player and committed to projects and hobbies I get involved in.
- I want to feel that I am special \*

Oh, I can't think of another excuse.	Speak to or email the Clerk, she can check your eligibility. Or you can check it yourself on <a href="http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/">www.electoralcommission.org.uk/</a>
What do I do now?	<b>Clerk – Gail Foster / 01264 783593 / <a href="mailto:nwpc.clerk@gmail.com">nwpc.clerk@gmail.com</a> - What have you got to lose?</b>

*\* - Er, we can't actually guarantee you will feel special, but we will at least try and make you feel welcome!*