

DORSET COUNCIL AREA Information for Town & Parish Elections Polling day – Thursday 2 May 2019

IMPORTANT – This information was accurate at the time of printing but may be subject to amendment, please check all dates prior to taking action. <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

Further information online at www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/elections

1. Election Timetable

Key dates

Notice of Election – Friday 15 March 2019 – 4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019 – This will be displayed locally and on the Internet by this date. Nominations can be received from Monday 18 March 2019. We encourage the return of nomination papers as early as possible during the nomination period to allow for any errors to be corrected and returned before the close of nominations. The deadline cannot be extended for any reason.

Close of Nominations – 4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019

Close of Withdrawals – 4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019

Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated – 4pm on Thursday 4 April 2019

Notice of Poll – Wednesday 24 April 2019

Last day to register to vote – Friday 12 April 2019

Receipt of Postal Vote Applications – 5pm Monday 15 April 2019 – Anyone who is on the register can have a postal vote for any reason, either for an indefinite period, just for this election (helpful if you are on holiday) or away for a period of time (useful for students in temporary accommodation). Electors can download forms from www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. Please ensure that people do not already have postal votes as a new application may cancel their existing postal vote and give them less time to receive their postal ballot papers in the post.

Election Expenses – These must be signed and returned to the Councils' Elections Offices, by the relevant date shown below in section 3 - even if the report is nil.

2. Nomination Process and Informal Checking

Nomination packs are available online at www.dorsetforyou.com.elections and from Councils' Elections Offices.

It is the duty of the individual candidate to ensure delivery by hand of nomination forms to the Council between the publication of notice of election and the close of nomination. (You may wish to **check with your Council election office for confirmation of timetable**). Delivery between **Monday 18 March 2019** and **4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019**.

Nomination Paper and Consent to Nomination

Very important - **both** must be completed in order for a candidate's nomination to be accepted.

Candidate's details: It is not permissible to use abbreviations e.g. Jon M Jones instead of Jonathan Michael Jones; both the name and address provided **must** be in **full**. A telephone number and e-mail address will be useful in case the Electoral Service Office needs to contact the candidate.

Description: Candidates may put the description/occupation they wish to appear on the ballot paper, such as:

Independent – Teacher – Housewife - Farmer etc.

If a candidate is standing for a political party then this party must be a registered political party. The relevant form must be completed, including the request to use an emblem if this is required, in order for the nomination to be accepted.

Parish elections require a Proposer and a Secunder from the relevant Parish or Parish Ward the candidate is standing for. The candidate, proposer and seconder must sign the nomination paper, print their name and include their full electoral number (i.e. the letters representing the polling district – on the front cover of the Register together with the number beside the elector's name). Make sure you use the correct register which is the one published on 1 March 2019.

The Consent to Nomination: This **must** be **completed and signed** for the candidate's nomination to be accepted. At least **one** section (a), (b), (c) or (d) **must** be filled in. It is recommended that you complete as many of the sections to which you qualify and if completing section A be sure to include your electoral register number. The witness can be anyone (except officers in the Council Election Office).

3. Election Expenses

Election expenses must not exceed £740 together with an additional 6p for every entry in the Register of Electors, for the Parish/Parish Ward. The declaration of Candidate's expenses must be made by Thursday 30 May 2019 – even if it is a NIL return. Please note that these expenses are not recoverable.

Finally we wish to reiterate the importance of checking all of these dates and the complete Election Timetable at the web sites shown at the head of this article.