

WHAT DOES A PARISH COUNCIL DO?

Parish councils are the first tier of local government with the unitary authority (e.g. Wiltshire Council) above it. As the tier of local government closest to the community, parish councils are often the first place people will go with concerns or ideas and they therefore play a vital leadership role in the community.

WINSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Winsley Parish Council undertakes many activities including:

- Looking after the environment of the parish, i.e. grass cutting & play area maintenance
- Campaigning for highways works and liaising with Wiltshire Council Highways Officers
- Reacting to issues raised by residents, such as taking action to mitigate climate change
- Commenting on planning applications (parish councils are statutory consultees although it does not have power to either approve or reject development)
- To fund this activity, raising a local tax (the precept) and administering an annual budget of about £27,000

Winsley Parish Council meets at 8pm on the first Tuesday of each month (not in August, unless there are specific items to consider) and is supported by a part-time Clerk.

WHAT DOES A PARISH COUNCILLOR DO?

A Parish Councillor represents all residents within the Parish. To do so, they are there to listen to and understand the views and the needs of individuals, organisations, businesses and different groups in the community (such as young and older people).

Councillors contribute to the work of the Council by proposing ideas based on the needs of the community and, where appropriate, engaging in constructive debate. Councillors comment on proposals to help achieve a good outcome for the community and vote to enable the Council to make decisions. Councillors might lead or engage with local projects.

Diversity is encouraged. Councillors from different backgrounds better represent the whole community and possess different enthusiasms, skills, attitudes and interests. Some Councillors work with ideas while others are very practical; some like accounts while others prefer to prepare reports. The Parish Council needs a wide range of skills to work as a team.

Councillors need to be able to take difficult decisions in an open, honest and reasoned way. They must act in an ethical way and to declare an interest when necessary. The role of a Parish Councillor is covered by statute and so they should apply the law and comply with the Code of Conduct.

**Have a say in what's going on in your area. Make a difference.
Meet other people. Be part of a team. Help plan the village for the future.
Put something back into your neighbourhood.**