



- Getting involved locally: as local representatives, Parish Councillors have responsibilities to their community. This often depends on what the community and Parish Council want to achieve and the time available. The day to day work of a Parish Councillor may include going to meetings of statutory bodies, the Police, tenants associations, schools and meeting residents in their own homes.

## How do I become a Parish Councillor?

If you wish to be a Parish Council you must satisfy these requirements:

- You need to be over 18 years of age
- A British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union
- On the Electoral Register for the council area for which you wish to represent

- A local government elector of the Parish; or a person who during the whole of the twelve months before nomination as a candidate occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the Parish; or has, during the same period, resided in that area or within three miles thereof; or has during the same period, had a principal or only place of work in that area.

There are reasons why someone cannot be considered as a Parish Councillor, further information can be provided on request.

## What next?

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor further information can be obtained from:

Scott Norman – Chair  
Stourpaine Parish Council  
Telephone – 01258 454607  
Email – [alastairnorman1@btinternet.com](mailto:alastairnorman1@btinternet.com)

Or

Paul Clark – Parish Clerk  
Stourpaine Parish Council  
Telephone – 01258 860460  
Email – [stourpaine@dorset-aptc.go.uk](mailto:stourpaine@dorset-aptc.go.uk)

Contact details for your other Parish Councillors can be found at [www.stourpaine.info](http://www.stourpaine.info)



## STOURPAINE PARISH COUNCIL

Why not become a  
Parish Councillor?



## What are Parish Councils?

There are close to 9000 parish, town and neighbourhood councils (known as local councils) in England, representing 16 million people. They form the most local level of government and cover many rural and urban areas

Your Parish Council has an overall responsibility for the well-being of the local community.

The work of your Parish Council falls into three main categories:

- Representing the concerns and aspirations of a local community
- Delivering services to meet local needs
- Striving to improve the quality of life for the community

Stourpaine Parish Council provides and maintains the following services:

- play areas at Grace Upward and Kid Zone
- bush shelter on Shaston Road
- grit bins in and around the village
- flood wardens
- allotments in Bushes Road

Stourpaine Parish Council works with both North Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council to ensure the effective delivery of services to the community.

Parish Councils are funded through a sum of money called a “precept” that is collected through council tax. This money is invested back into the community to improve services for residents. Parish Councils can also apply for grants and loans to fund specific projects.

On behalf of the community Stourpaine Parish Council’s responsibilities include:

- consultation on all planning applications within the village
- provision of small grants to village organisations
- liaison with Dorset County Council with regard to rights of way, footpaths and highways matters
- liaison with North Dorset District Council on street cleaning, hedgerows and trees
- liaison with statutory agencies delivering flood prevention and protection services



## What is a Parish Councillor and what do they do?

Stourpaine Parish Council is made up of Councillors who meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the council. As an elected body Parish Councils are responsible to the community they represent.

Parish Councillors have three main responsibilities:

- **Decision-making:** through attendance at meetings and committees to decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented
- **Monitoring:** Parish Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services