

# Woodhurst Parish Council Elections & Meetings

The Parish Council elections are held every four years.

This process ensures the community is represented by active parishioners dedicated to local governance.

Woodhurst Parish Council must have between 3 and 7 councillors.

## Standing for Election

If you are a parishioner, why not consider standing for election to make a real difference in our community?

- The next election is on **Thursday, 7th May** alongside District Council elections.
- All current councillors step down but may stand for re-election. To become a candidate, you must be nominated by two electors from the Parish. Other criteria also apply – see the HDC website for details.
- Nomination papers are available via the HDC website. Completed forms must be delivered **by hand** to the HDC offices by **16:00 on Thursday, 9th April**.
- If seven or fewer candidates are nominated, they are elected automatically without a ballot. Remaining vacancies may be filled later by co-option.
- If the council has less than three councillors, it is likely that responsibility for Woodhurst would be taken over by HDC.

## Parish Councillor Responsibilities

- **Decision making:** Councillors decide on the precept (our share of Council tax) and where that money should be spent.

It also involves discussing planning, transport and other village issues.

- **Monitoring:** Councillors ensure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by monitoring how well things work.
- **Getting involved locally:** As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards villagers and local organisations.
- **Ethical Standards:** Once elected, councillors must declare any prescribed interests.
- **Conflict Management:** During meetings, councillors must state if they have a personal or prejudicial interest in a discussion.
  - If the interest is not prejudicial, they may participate and vote.
  - If it is prejudicial, they must leave the room and abstain from the discussion and vote.
- **Community Representation:** Councillors act as a voice for the parish, listening to views expressed by parishioners during public sessions.

## Council Meetings

Meetings are conducted as informally as possible, often featuring light-hearted moments alongside formal business.

- The Council typically meets monthly on a Tuesday night, excluding August and January. By law, a minimum of four meetings per year is required.
- The Annual Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 12th May** this year. In election years, this must occur within 14 days of new councillors taking office. This meeting includes the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman and declarations by councillors.
- Meetings are held in the Village Hall. Agendas and minutes are posted on parish notice boards and the village website.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, 14th April** in the Village Hall. This is a public meeting where:

- The Council reports on its yearly activities via the Chairman's and Clerks reports
- Parishioners are encouraged to express their views to the Council.
- Other village organisations are invited to report on their activities.

For further information, please contact the Clerk to the Council

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