

MIDDLEZOY PARISH COUNCIL

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A COUNCILLOR AND SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY?

The Parish Council is the lowest tier of Local Government in England and serves its immediate local village and parish community. Councillors are either elected every four years or may be co-opted should there be insufficient candidates or a “casual vacancy” occurs during the term of the Council. A candidate is acceptable if over 18 and a British National or a qualifying citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Community. You may not be a paid employee of the Council because the law forbids it. You may represent a political party or you may remain an independent candidate and, if co-opted, would be eligible for election at a subsequent date.

The Council is a lawful, **corporate body** and a legal entity separate from that of its Members and its decisions are the responsibility of the whole body and democratically achieved. The Council has legal powers to raise local taxes called **The Precept** which may be used for achieving their lawful activities to the common good of the community. A Parish Council has limited statutory powers, mainly of a consultative and advisory nature but very few **legal duties** as District and County Councils.

As a Councillor you will represent the local community and give them a voice with the higher Authorities who determine Planning, Social and Economic Development, Housing Education and Highways.

Parish Councillors are legally accountable individuals who adhere to a Code of Conduct and are governed by Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. But, do not worry as you do not have to understand everything at once as regular training is given and the business of Council is generally delegated to the **proper officer** who is normally the Clerk who carries out the instructions of Council. Many people find the role of Councillor very satisfying and a sense of “putting back” into your own Community but it is a serious responsibility expecting regular attendance at meetings (but not often!) and making sure that you are conversant with the issues being debated. Some younger people have found it a first step to getting involved in politics at a higher level.

Parish Councillors represent **their** community and may:

- Be statutory consultees on Planning Applications in the Parish;
- Raise the Precept to contribute to pay the Clerk, maintain lands and assets within the Parish and support capital projects like provision of cultural or sports facilities;
- Lobby the higher Authorities over Education, Health and Safety, Roads and Economy;
- Act as a sounding board and support over issues affecting the local community such as broadband connectivity, affordable housing, crime and anti-social behaviour.

If interested please contact the Chairman, Nobby Turner on 01823 698525 or the Clerk, Chris Sidaway on 07709 429451/01278 327576 or : middlezoyparishcouncil@hotmail.com

