

Interested in the Parish Councillor Vacancy? Are you aware of the role and responsibilities of Councillors of Parish Councils?

It's true to say that on their own, Parish Councils have limited powers to make decisions. But they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as the County Council, Health Authorities, Police etc).

In this respect Parish Councils are extremely powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a Parish Council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

How much time does it take up?

Councils usually meet once a month for the Full Council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last three hours, depending on the agenda set for the meeting to discuss. The Parish Council have various committees to deal with specific subjects, such as Open Space, finance etc. Committee meetings are held more or less each Monday of each month except throughout August. In addition to the regular meetings, Councillors are required to attend other meetings representing the Parish Council, for example acting as a representative on an outside body, community activities or helping develop a new project for the community. Such meetings won't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life.

How long does a parish councillor serve for?

Once Co-Opted, Parish Councillors sit on the council until a Election Year. If they then want to stay in the post they can stand for re-election.

Applicants should note that Councillors are expected to attend regular meetings and any additional meetings as may be arranged, and to represent the electors of South Cave Parish in raising and discussing those issues of interest and concern on which the Parish Council is empowered to act.

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

You have to be:

- a British subject, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union
 - over 18 years of age
- And additionally you have to be one of the following

- a local government elector for the council area for which you want to stand
- have during the whole of the 12 months occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the council area or within 3 miles of it for the whole period
- have during that same period had your principal or only place of work in the council area or within 3 miles of it for the whole period.

You cannot stand for election if you

- are subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order.
- have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.
- you work for the council you want to become a Parish Councillor for (but you can work for other local authorities, including the principal authorities that represent the same area).
- any person who is subject to an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction, a Criminal Behaviour Order, a Sexual Risk Order or who is on the Sex Offenders' Register, will no longer be able to stand for elected office in their community.

You don't have to be connected to a political party and South Cave Parish Council are not a Politically driven Parish Council

If you do become a Parish Councillor you will have to sign up to the Code of Conduct.

What powers do Parish Councils have?

They have a wide range of powers which essentially related to local matters, such as looking after Parish Council owned buildings, open space, allotments, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters, and much more. The Parish Council also has the power to raise money through taxation, the precept. The precept is the Parish Council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority East Riding of Yorkshire Council, which collects the tax for the Parish Council.

Parish Duties

South Cave Parish Council has 11 Councillors who stand for election every four years. The duties and functions of a Parish Council are many and varied.

The Parish Council meets monthly and considers planning applications and any other matters referred to it by local residents. All meetings are open to the public and there is a forum before the start of the meeting at which members of the public can raise concerns and ask questions. There is also an annual meeting which all parishioners are invited to attend. All meetings are advertised on the Parish Council notice boards and on the website www.southcavepc.gov.uk. Residents can bring to the attention of the Parish Council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the Clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, the Clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority.

Don't take our word for it!

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now.