

HOLME ABBEY PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy on the Parish Council! Being a Councillor

Holme Abbey Parish Council needs a new team member; if you think you would like to take the wishes of the Parish forward and over 18 years of age please contact the Clerk:

Email: clerk@holmeabbey-pc.gov.uk or

Write: Eriskay Cottage, Bromfield, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 3NB

What is a councillor?

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward or parish, in Abbeytown it is the entire parish. They are generally elected by the public every four years, but there is a Co-option space available on the Parish Council at the moment as Councillor L Hoskin has given her resignation to the Parish Council

What do councillors do?

Councillors have three main components to their work.

- 1. Decision making** –Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councilors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- 2. Monitoring** - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
- 3. Getting involved locally** – As local representatives, councilors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councilor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:
 - Going to meetings of local organisations
 - Going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community
 - Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

How much time does it take up?

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about an hour a week. Obviously there are some councilors who spend more time than this – and some less, but in the main, being a parish councilor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community, and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

If after reading this notice you are interested in applying please contact the clerk to the council using the above details.

The closing date for applications is Friday 30 August 2024

HOLME ABBEY PARISH COUNCIL

July 30, 2024

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for co-option. Make a change and become a councillor.

What do local councils and councillors do?

Local (parish and town) councils and councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

Local councils run numerous services, depending on the size of the council. Many you will see day-to-day, but some are less known. These include creating neighbourhood plans, establishing youth projects, managing allotments and open spaces, maintaining footpaths, public seating and litter bins.

Councillors are elected or co-opted to represent the local community, so you must either live or work in the council area. Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience as you will be able to make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives. A councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, decision making and reviewing decisions and talking to the community about their needs and what the council is doing.

How to become a councillor

Local councils can only be as helpful, connected and energetic as the people elected to run them, so we need councillors capable, enthusiastic and engaged to reflect their communities. You can find out more about becoming a councillor on [The Electoral Commission \(https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england\)](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england) and [Local Government Association \(https://www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor\)](https://www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor) websites.

There are three ways that you can become a councillor; standing for election, filling a vacant seat after an election (co-opted) or filling a casual vacancy. ***Holme Abbey Parish Council has a casual vacancy.***

Casual vacancy

A casual vacancy is a seat that becomes available between elections, which may occur for several different reasons, such as a councillor resigning, becoming disqualified (by committing an offence) or not attending any meetings in six months.

The council clerk will declare the vacancy by posting a note within the parish and notifying the electoral returning officer.

This notice will also confirm that a by-election will be held if at least ten electors request it within 14 days (not including weekends and public holidays). If there is no demand for a by-election, the council will fill the vacancy by co-option and we will advertise when applications can be submitted.