

## Thinking of becoming a parish councillor?

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015, at the same time as the general election, there will also be elections for District and Parish Councillors.

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government in England & Wales and, for most of the electorate, provides the most accessible forum for debating and developing local issues. Parish Councils are elected for a term of 4 years so, if you are thinking of standing as a parish councillor, you would be making a commitment to serve the community until May 2019.

*Frithelstock Parish Council has 7 councillors. It has no sub-committees but provides, or recommends other parishioners, as trustees to the Village Hall Management Committee, the Playing Fields Association and the Poorlands Charity. Meetings are held once every two months, normally on the first Tuesday of the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. Extra meetings are occasionally needed, most commonly to meet deadlines for consultations on planning applications. The Parish Council's Annual Meeting is held in May each year. At this meeting a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected for the coming year. There is only one other formally appointed role for a parish councillor, which is to undertake the role of Snow Warden (although this role can also be delegated to an individual who is not a councillor if necessary).*

The Parish Clerk is a paid employee of the council – not a councillor, and therefore is not required to stand for election. Their role is to advise the Council, prepare minutes and agendas, provide financial control and undertake other administrative duties. He or she does not take part in any voting.

If you are considering standing as a Parish Councillor you might find some of these guides and background papers helpful:

- What is a Parish Council?
- Can You Stand For Election?
- Election Timetable
- Become a Parish Councillor
- Being a Parish Councillor
- Parish Council Powers
- The Role of the Chair
- The Parish Clerk
- Public Participation
- Parish Council Governance Toolkit
- *Frithelstock's* Standing Orders
- The Code of Conduct

Nomination forms will become available on or soon after 9<sup>th</sup> March and must be returned (n person) to the Returning Officer by 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015. You can contact the Parish Clerk or any of the present Parish Councillors at the email addresses below. If you would like an informal chat just leave your telephone number and they will call you back.

Mike Baker [mikebaker14@hotmail.com](mailto:mikebaker14@hotmail.com)

Greg Ball [gregoryball@btinternet.com](mailto:gregoryball@btinternet.com)

Patrick Blossie (Parish Clerk) [frithelstockpc@gmail.com](mailto:frithelstockpc@gmail.com)

Andrew Heard	<a href="mailto:andrewheard@harracottfarm.freeserve.co.uk">andrewheard@harracottfarm.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Roger Hunkin (Vice-Chairman)	<a href="mailto:roghunkin@gmail.com">roghunkin@gmail.com</a>
Heathcliff Pettifer	<a href="mailto:Heathcliffe.Pettifer@unitetheunion.org">Heathcliffe.Pettifer@unitetheunion.org</a>
Mackie Poole (Chairman)	<a href="mailto:MJandBA@hotmail.co.uk">MJandBA@hotmail.co.uk</a>
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