

## **Could you be a Parish Councillor?**

After the election on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 one vacancy will remain at Little Waltham Parish Council and the Council will be looking to fill that vacancy by way of co-option. The Parish Council is the first tier of democracy and deals with the issues directly concerning your parish so why not get involved and contribute to your community?

### **What issues does the Parish Council deal with?**

The Parish Council deals with the following matters –

- Maintains the play area and tennis courts on the playing fields and the car park
- Maintains recreational facilities to consider the provision of new play equipment in those areas
- Keeping the Parish clean and tidy by arranging regular litter picking and the emptying of bins in the Parish
- Provides bins and dog bins in the Parish
- Arranges for grass cutting of certain public areas in the Parish in order to maintain a tidy standard.
- Maintains certain bus stops
- In order to maintain a pleasant environment, the Parish Council arranges gardening and the provision and maintenance of flower tubs
- It responsible for the War Memorial on The Street
- Is responsible for the allotments
- Works hard to address specific issues of concern to the community – specifically at present the issue of rat running traffic through the village centre
- Undertaking an upgrade of the Pavilion to provide a Community hub for Little Waltham
- Makes representations in relation to planning applications and consultations
- Works with other agencies and organisations for the benefit of the Parish
- The provision of grants to local voluntary organisations
- Plans for the future of this Parish

### **I'm not sure I have the time!**

The Parish Council meets of an evening on the first Tuesday of each month except August. The meetings last about 2 hours. Sometimes it would be useful to be involved in specific projects or activities which may take up more time. The day to day administration is dealt with by the Clerk. Most of the existing Councillors have full time jobs so the commitment of time is not excessive!

### **What sort of knowledge do I need?**

The existing Councillors come from all walks of life and you don't need to be specially qualified. An interest in your community and a commitment to do the best for the residents of the Parish are the most important things together with your life

experience and common sense views! Training is available and the clerk is available to advise or obtain advice on more technical matters.

**Are there any specific qualifying requirements?**

Yes! You need to be aged 18 or above, be an elector in the Parish or have resided or worked within the Parish for a period of at least a year or reside within 3 miles of the Parish, you should not have gone to prison in the last 5 years and you should not be bankrupt!

**How can I become a Councillor**

Complete the Councillor application form and return it to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk) The co-option of a new Councillor will be considered at the meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**I would like to know a bit more**

If you would like to know more about being a Councillor you can give the Parish Clerk a ring for a chat and if you wish she can arrange for you to have an informal chat with an existing Councillor.

Contact the Clerk by phone on 01376 331251 or email [clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk](mailto:clerk@littlewaltham.org.uk)