**What is a parish councillor?**

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of local government closest to the community.

**Why become a parish councillor?**

Become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support. A community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. .

**What decisions do Parish Councils make?**

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. The most common topics are planning matters, crime prevention and roads & highways.

**How much time does it take up?**

Councils usually meet once a month for the council meeting to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last two or three hours, depending on what is on the list of items to discuss. We have some sub-committees to deal with specific subjects, such as planning matters, leisure centre and project based groups..

**How long does a Parish Councillor serve for?**

Once elected, parish councillors sit on the council for a maximum of four years. This does not mean that you have to stay for four years. If you find it is not for you, or you can no longer meet the commitment, you can stand down.

**Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?**

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

* be at least 18 years old.
* be an elector of the parish; or
* in the past 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish; or work in the parish (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the parish boundary.

**Are you interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?**

Come to a parish council meeting, Council meets every second Wednesday of the month at Oakthorpe Community Leisure Centre 7.30pm.

Speak to one of the councillors and find out what they think of the job. Their telephone numbers can be found on the council website [www.odapc.co.uk](http://www.odapc.co.uk) or the front of the 3Views News. For further information on the role or how to apply please contact Kelly the clerk clerk@odapc.co.uk **Come join us!**