



What Does a Parish Councillor Do?

Parish Councillors are elected or co-opted members of the local council who represent the interests of residents and help shape the future of the community. They work together to make decisions on local issues, support community initiatives, and ensure that the Parish Council delivers effective leadership on behalf of local people.

Parish Councillors can be members or supporters of a political party, but the Parish Council itself is a non-political organisation and party politics play no part in its affairs.

The Role

As a Parish Councillor, you would:

- Represent the interests of residents and act as a voice for the community.
- Attend Parish Council meetings and participate in informed decision-making.
- Help develop policies, priorities and projects that benefit the parish.
- Consider planning applications and other matters affecting the local area.
- Work collaboratively with fellow councillors, local organisations and residents.
- Support good governance and the responsible management of public funds.
- Help identify opportunities to improve local services and amenities.

What Makes an Effective Parish Councillor?

The Parish Council is keen to attract candidates who can bring a broad range of skills, knowledge and experience to support its work. Valuable experience may come from professional, voluntary, community or business backgrounds.

In particular, we welcome applications from individuals who can demonstrate:

- A genuine commitment to serving the local community.
- Sound judgement and an ability to consider issues objectively.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience of working collaboratively and constructively with others.
- Strategic thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- Knowledge or experience in areas such as finance, governance, project management, planning, legal matters, community engagement, communications or environmental issues.

Previous experience as a councillor is not required, but applicants should be willing to learn and attend relevant training, contribute actively and uphold the high standards expected of public office holders.

Why Get Involved?

Serving as a Parish Councillor is a rewarding opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to village life. It offers the chance to influence decisions, support local projects, and work with others who are committed to ensuring the parish remains a thriving and welcoming community.

Time Commitment

Councillors are expected to attend Council meetings and some Committee meetings, read meeting papers in advance, and take an active interest in local issues. While the role is voluntary, it carries significant responsibility and requires a commitment to public service and good governance.

If you care about the future of Claygate and believe you have the skills, experience and commitment to make a positive contribution, we would be pleased to hear from you.