



West Horsley Parish Council

YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

Parish Councillor Vacancy

West Horsley Parish Council currently has one vacancy for a Parish Councillor which we are looking to fill as soon as possible.

We are a dynamic Council with a variety of interesting projects underway, from youth and community engagement to road safety and village appearance, so there is plenty to get involved with.

We are particularly keen to hear from individuals who have an interest or experience in planning, housing development and associated issues, as we are about to embark on a review of our Neighbourhood Plan.

If you'd like to be part of this great team and help our village, please email a brief resumé to clerk@westhorsley-pc.goc.uk outlining why you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and what skills you can offer.

Deadline for Expressions of Interest: 31 July 2026

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

Balance and diversity within the Council is important to us and we encourage people from all backgrounds and experiences who are passionate about their local area to come forward. To apply you must be at least 18 years old and a citizen of the UK, EU or Commonwealth. You must also either be on the village electoral register, or for the past year, have: i) owned or occupied property in the parish, ii) worked in the parish, or iii) lived in, or within 3 miles of, the parish boundary.

Election and Co-Option of Parish Councillors

All the seats on the Parish Council are up for election every four years, with the next Parish Council elections scheduled for May 2027. When a vacancy arises, the Council is able to co-opt someone to the role. The current vacancy gives someone the perfect opportunity to get involved for a few months, to experience life as a Councillor and make a difference to the community, before committing to stand for election.

The Role of the Parish Council

Parish Councils forms a key part of the democratic process. They give people a voice at a very local level on proposals which affect them, represent residents' and the village's interests, and champion local needs such as:

- creating community spaces
- events and cultural projects
- youth engagement
- climate and environmental action
- health and wellbeing

Why Get Involved Now

This is an exciting time to become a Parish Councillor. On 1 April 2027 Guildford Borough and Surrey County Councils will be abolished, and the new West Surrey 'Unitary' Council will start to deliver all the public services and functions. It is unclear at this time whether the role and responsibilities of the Parish Council will change. It is possible that the Unitary Council may wish to pass some local assets and services over. We may also need to engage with new Neighbourhood Area Committees. We shall wait to see.

Becoming a Councillor

Becoming a Parish Councillor is a rewarding and valued form of unpaid public service. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of their residents, voters and local council. All Councillors contribute to the work of the Parish Council by:

- having a say about things they care about
- putting forward ideas for better services
- responding to the needs and views of their residents
- seeking the best outcome to local issues
- getting involved in decision-making by voting

The Role of a Councillor

An integral part of a councillor's role is engaging with local people, groups, and businesses to determine their needs, making decisions on the services and projects the council should take forward, and getting involved to ensure services meet the community's needs.

Responsibilities

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| To the Parish | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representing the views of the community• Ensuring services are provided in the parish• Helping individual residents on specific issues |
| To the Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Setting the budget and annual precept charge• Making and scrutinising decisions |
| To the Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening to the community and bring partners together make positive changes• Supporting the community and working to resolve local issues• Becoming actively involved, by offering their time, in a variety of community projects |
| As Advocates | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaking up for and on behalf of residents and groups• Encouraging residents to engage and participate• Taking part in plan making and planning decisions• Communicating individual resident's concerns to the council and other interested parties. |

How Much Time is Involved?

The Full Council meets monthly to discuss and approve the Council's business. Additionally, Councillors sit on one or more committees and task groups: Finance; Planning; Village Assets & Appearance; Road Safety & Maintenance; Communications; Community Events & Wellbeing; Personnel. The work commitment will depend on which and how many groups you join. The Parish Council runs a selection of public meetings, talks and community events each year. Councillors are expected to attend where possible. They are also encouraged to support and attend other local community events to raise the profile of the Council and to encourage community engagement.

Cooperation Between Councillors

A Parish Councillor cannot act alone or make decisions on behalf of the Council without proper delegation. This is to maintain the integrity of the Council's decision-making process. Councillors working together to achieve the best possible outcome for the community is the key to success of the Council and the basis for a rewarding contribution. Importantly, this involves listening to the views of other Councillors and getting broad agreement on the best way forward.

Interested But Want to Know More?

Current Vacancy: If you are interested in filling the current vacancy but would like to know more about how West Horsley Parish Council is structured and manages its business, please get in touch. We would be delighted to arrange for the Chairman and Clerk to meet you for an informal chat. You might also like to attend one of our Full Council meetings or sit in on one of our Planning Committee meetings. The dates of these meetings are on our website.

May '27 Elections: If you are interested in standing for election in May 2027, please let us know. We will be organising an evening event so you can hear current members of the Parish Council speak on why they became councillors and how they believe they have made a difference to our community.

Please do take a tour of our website. You will find lots of information on Becoming a Parish Councillor, minutes for all our meetings, and links to some background reading including the Council's key documents: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct.

Contact Us

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**MAKE A
CHANGE**
BECOME A
COUNCILLOR