

# Vacancy on the Parish Council! Being a Councillor

**Wonderland Parish Council** needs a new team member; if you think you would like to take the wishes of the Parish Plan forward are over 18 years of age contact the Clerk on 0000 1111 2222 or email [wonderland@virginmedia.com](mailto:wonderland@virginmedia.com)

## What is a councillor?

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward or - parish – in Wonderland it is the entire parish. They are generally elected by the public every four years, but there is a Co-option space available on the Parish Council at the moment as Councillor **Cheshire Cat** has given his resignation to the Parish Council.

In accordance with Section 89(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, where the vacancy occurs within six months before the day on which the councillor whose office is vacant would regularly have retired, an election shall not be held under Section 89(1) of the above Act, and the vacancies will be filled at the next ordinary election of councillors on Thursday 4 May 2017. The Parish Council have chosen to fill the vacancy by co-option for the period until that election.  
( if a vacancy is near to an election period the above applies)

## What do councillors do?

Councillors have three main components to their work.

- 1. Decision making** - Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- 2. Monitoring** - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
- 3. Getting involved locally** - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:
  - Going to meetings of local organisations such as the Rural Police Neighbourhood Tasking Group
  - Going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community (The Warminster Area Board)
  - Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

## How much time does it take up?

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about an hour a week. Obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this - and some less, but in the main, being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community, and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team. If after reading this notice you are interested in applying please contact the clerk to the council using the above details.

**The closing date for applications is the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017**