

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



MERTON PARISH COUNCIL
NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE AND BECOME A
COUNCILLOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

CLERKMERTONPC@GMAIL.COM

THE COUNCIL Your council is a corporate body, a legal entity separate from that of its members. Its decisions are the responsibility of the whole body. The council has been granted powers by Parliament including the important authority to raise money through taxation (the precept) and a range of powers to spend public money. Your council is an elected body in the first tier of local government. Other tiers, known as principal councils or authorities, have many legal duties to deliver services such as education, housing, town and country planning, transport, environmental health and social services. Local councils have the legal power to take action, but they have very few duties and greater freedom to choose what action to take. They can play a vital part in representing the interests of the communities they serve and improving the quality of life and the local environment. Furthermore they influence other decision makers and can, in many cases, deliver services to meet local needs. In other words, you and your council can make a difference.

What services can it provide?

A parish or town council has an overall responsibility for the well-being of its local community. Its work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community
- delivering services to meet local needs
- striving to improve quality of life in the parish

A Parish Council might provide and/or maintain some of the following services:

- allotments
- burial grounds
- car parks
- community transport schemes
- footpaths
- bridleways
- bus shelters
- commons
- crime reduction measures
- leisure facilities

It can also work with the District Council and County Council to provide other services, for example:

- litter bins
- local youth projects
- open spaces
- public toilets
- planning
- street cleaning
- street lighting
- traffic calming measures
- village greens

An ordinary election occurs every four years and Merton Parish Council's last ordinary election was held in 2022. Merton Parish Council can have seven members; currently it has four, dedicated, elected members who would welcome support from some new members. A casual vacancy is a seat that becomes available between elections, which may occur for several different reasons, such as a councillor resigning, becoming disqualified (by committing an offence) or not attending any meetings in six months. You must be an elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary.

The council having publicly notified the vacancy and no poll called can co-opt to fill its current vacancies.

If you are passionate about your local community and are interested in becoming a parish councillor please contact your parish clerk for more information.