

Important Notices for Merton Residents

Parish Councillors

For a village the size of Merton, the normal quota of parish councillors is 7. Over the past few years, we've lost some of our members, with the result that we're now down to a total of 4, but with one further person hoping to retire in the near future. In consequence, the village is now very much in need of new councillors.

That's a problem in two key respects. First, the fewer councillors there are, the greater the workload that's borne by each individual. But of even greater significance for the village itself, we legally need a minimum of 3 councillors in order to be able to function. Any fewer than that, and we'd no longer be quorate. If that happens, the Parish Council's role would be taken over by Cherwell District Council, with major financial consequences for the village.

Although our expenses are covered, Parish councillors don't get paid for their time. So the work that we do doesn't cost the village anything – the Parish Precept only has to pay for things like the cost of mowing the playing field and woodland, heating and maintaining the village hall, and the Parish Clerk's wages.

In addition, if our work had to be taken over by Cherwell District Council, it would be handled by paid employees, the cost of which would be passed on to the village through a higher precept. In addition, the work would be done by people with no direct connection with the village, and with no real knowledge of what the local community needs or wants.

So if you can spare a few hours each month, we'd love to hear from you. You don't need any special skills or knowledge – just a willingness to spend a bit of time to benefit the village, and an interest in improving how our community runs. For more information, please contact any of the following:

- Tracey Charlesworth (Parish Clerk): 01865 331481; clerkmertonpc@gmail.com
- Tony Bradley (Chair of Parish Council): 01865 331604; ajrbradley@hotmail.co.uk
- Fred Foxon (Vice-Chair of Parish Council): 01865 331678; fred.foxon@btinternet.com
- Pat Murphy (Parish Councillor): 01865 331643; patmurphy153@btinternet.com
- Ron Leaver (Parish Councillor): 01865 331360; ronandfe@tiscali.co.uk

Village Allotments

The village allotments are situated on the north-west side of the playing field, i.e. on the opposite side to the gardens behind the houses in Otmoor View. Currently, there are 4 allotments available, each at a cost of £10 per annum. If anyone is interested in taking one or more of these allotments, please contact the Parish Clerk:

- Tracey Charlesworth (Parish Clerk): 01865 331481; clerkmertonpc@gmail.com

If any of the allotments remain vacant, they will be offered to residents of other nearby villages. So if you're interested, do let Tracey know soon – even if the weather doesn't inspire you to start doing any gardening just yet!
