



Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council

February 2011 Update

Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? If you are interested, why not call in to the Parish Office and have a chat on Saturday 26th March, between 10 am and 1pm.

What is a Parish Council?

There are around 10,000 Community, Parish and Town councils in England and Wales. They are corporate bodies and they represent local people. Parish Councils are the part of local government closest to the people. Very importantly these Councils can "precept" which means raising money through the Council Tax system each year to improve and maintain facilities and services for local people. Parish Councils have a number of responsibilities in making the lives of local communities more comfortable, many of which are taken for granted. Essentially these powers fall into 3 categories:

- Representing the whole electorate within the parish—over 8000 in Bishop's Cleeve.
- Delivering services to meet local needs such as commenting on local planning issues, maintaining the War Memorial, providing play areas, installing street furniture including bus shelters, managing the Community Building and Parish Office.
- Striving to improve the quality of life in the Parish by providing allotment plots and funding for local events such as the Christmas Lights and Summer Street Fair.

What a Parish Councillor is expected to do?

Councillors are elected to represent geographical areas known as Wards. They are generally elected by the public every four years. Quite often Councillors say that their duties occupy them for about three hours a week. Bishop's Cleeve Parish Councillors are unpaid and do not receive any allowances at the present time.

Councillors have three main components to their work:

- Decision making: Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- Monitoring: Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services
- Getting involved locally: As local representatives, Councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations.

Bishop's Cleeve Parish Councillors carry out this work by:

- Attending one monthly Council meeting and normally attend at least one other committee meeting per month. Meetings are generally held on a Thursday evening.
- Attending meetings of local organisations where the Parish Council is represented
- Attending meetings of bodies affecting the wider communities
- Meet with individual members of the public and taking up issues on their behalf

If you are interested in standing as a Parish Councillor

Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council will be re-elected in May 2011. The timetable is set out by law and is administered by Tewkesbury Borough Council. Please contact the Returning Officer at Tewkesbury Borough Council for more detailed information but the process mainly consists of:

- Publication of Notice of Election—not later than 25th day before the day of the election
- Delivery of nomination papers—not later than noon on the 19th day before the day of the election

Candidates must be

- aged 18 years or over,
- a British Citizen
- an elector of the parish or occupied land or premises as owner or tenant within the parish
- or have resided in that area or within 3 miles thereof
- or have had their principal or only place of work in the area.

A candidate must have the details and signature of a proposer and seconder who must also be electors in the ward for which the candidate seeks election.

The best way to find out about what happens in your Parish Council is to attend some of the monthly meetings. See our notice boards or website www.bishopscleevepc.org

Your Parish Councillors are:

Peter Lightfoot, 676682

(Chair of Council)

Vera Ayres, 696671

Peter Badham, 516779

Mark Cooper, 07751311157

Alan Shakespeare 663956

Geoffrey Jackson, 674146

Clive Lawrence, 676409

Ann Lightfoot, 676682

Anthony Mackinnon, 672534

John Peake, 677315

Kate Peake, 677315

Patrick Rawlings, 673931

Peter Richmond, 678271

Philip Taylor, 677193

Wards of Bishop's Cleeve are:

- Cleeve West
- Cleeve Grange
- Cleeve St Michaels

A map of the wards and their representative Parish Councillors can be seen at www.bishopscleevepc.org follow link to Council Information page

Contact details:

Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council

Church Road,

Bishop's Cleeve

Cheltenham

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