

Rules of becoming a Parish Councillor

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or
- be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or
- be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union; and
- be at least 18 years old

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- be an elector of the parish; or
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish; or
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work); or
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

If you do become a parish councillor, you will have to sign up to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

Disqualification

There are certain people who are disqualified from being elected to a parish or community council in England and Wales. You cannot be a candidate if at the time of your nomination and on polling day:

- You are employed by the parish/community council or hold a paid office under the parish/community council (including joint boards or committees).
- You are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.
- You have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the five years before polling day.
- You have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations). The disqualification for an illegal practice begins from the date the person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for three years. The disqualification for a corrupt practice begins from the date a person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for five years.
- A person may also be disqualified from election if they have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority following a decision of the First-tier Tribunal (formerly the Adjudication Panel for England) or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.