

## **Be a Parish Councillor - Frequently asked questions (FAQs)**

### **Parish boundaries**

The Borough is made up of 26 Parish Councils some covering more than one parish /village area. The Parish Council areas are shown on the map (in blue lettering).

[Borough ward map](#)

### **Parish Councillors**

The number of parish councillors allocated to each Parish Council is dependent on the electorate and size of the parish/parishes that make up the Parish Council.

To find out more about a particular parish, contact the relevant Parish Clerk

[Parish Council contacts](#)

### **Criteria for standing for election**

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election in England you must be :

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union, and
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
  - a. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards
  - b. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election
  - c. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area
  - d. You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election

You cannot stand if you :

- work for the Parish Council
- are bankrupt
- have served a prison sentence, including suspended sentences, of three months or more within five years prior to the election
- have been disqualified under any legislation relating to corrupt or illegal practices

Candidates do not need any specific qualifications. However life experience and knowledge of your area is essential.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
[Electoral Commission - standing for election](#)

### **Standing as an independent**

You do not have to belong to a political party to run for election. You can stand as an independent and have no affiliation with any party. To find out what its like to be an independent contact a current independent Councillor.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
[Electoral Commission - independent candidate](#)

### **Standing for a political party**

If you are standing as a candidate for a particular party then you will need to be a member of that party's local organisation.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
[Electoral Commission - political party candidate](#)

### **Role of election agent**

The role of agent is to support the candidate and their campaign and there are specific rules to follow for both the candidate and the agent on how much they can spend, who they can accept donations from, what they must report after the election. Failure to follow these rules could lead to committing an offence and the candidate losing their seat, if elected.

Candidates and agents also have a right to attend key electoral events ie. the opening of postal votes; the poll; and the count. Others can also be appointed to attend these electoral events.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
[Electoral Commission - candidates and agents](#)

### **Election expenses which can be spent on a campaign**

The table below explains how to calculate your spending limit :

<b>Fixed amount</b>	<b>plus variable amounts</b>
£740	6p per local government elector in the parish registered to vote on the last date for publication of notice of the election

The number of registered electors in a particular parish is based on the electoral register as it stands on the last date for publication of the notice of election. The Elections Office will be able tell you how many registered electors are in your parish.

Please note that expenses are not claimable and in the interests of equality and fairness they must be recorded and accounted for to show that there has been no breach of the spending limit. It is important to read the Electoral Commission's guide as to what must be recorded and included in the expenses return.

More detailed information is available on the Electoral Commission website :  
(Electoral Commission – election expenses)  
[Electoral Commission - election expenses](#)

**Further queries**

For any further queries, please contact [democracy@melton.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@melton.gov.uk)