

Want to help your village? Then consider becoming a Parish Councillor.

To be able to be a parish councillor, you must:

- Be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights.
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Meet at least one of the following three qualifications:
 - You are and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish you wish to attend from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the 12 months before the day of your nomination.
 - Your principal or only place of work during the past 12 months has been in the parish area.

What is the time commitment?

Previous councillor surveys have found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. Parish council work often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the council. Thornhackett Parish Council meets monthly except for August and December although occasionally there may be extra meetings as the need arises.

Is there any training and support?

Councillors can receive training and support via their [county association](#), which are a network of regional bodies for parish and town councils.

What it means to be a Parish Councillor

A Parish Councillor is not a paid employee or volunteer, but is an elected or co-opted representative who freely volunteers their time to work on behalf of their local communities.

As a councillor, you have a responsibility to be well-informed, especially about diverse local views. You cannot assume that you represent the interests of all your electors without consulting them.

As a Parish Councillor you should:-

- Be over the age of 18 and be a registered elector for the parish, or be an owner, tenant, live or work in the parish
- Attend meetings when summoned to do so; the notice to attend a council meeting is, in law, a summons, because you have a duty to attend.
- We meet every month except December and August
- Read, in advance of the meeting, the agenda and any related documents which are sent to you
- Take part in meetings and consider all relevant facts and issues on matters which require a decision
- Vote on key issues
- Ensure that the council is properly managed
- Represent the whole community
- Be willing to serve on a working group as the need arises
- Be responsible for overseeing an area of the Council's responsibility e.g. the play area, footpaths, publicity etc.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Clerk via the web site

<https://www.thornhackett-pc.gov.uk/community/thornhackett-parish-council-20390/home>

There is a "formal" process to become a Councillor consisting of an interview, declaration of interests and approval by the Council members.