

TATWORTH & FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Elections May 2019

Become a Parish Councillor for Tatworth & Forton Parish Council

Tatworth & Forton Parish Council is the parish authority for the hamlets of Tatworth Forton Perry Street and South Chard. Town and Parish Councils are the first tier of local government and who are closest to its electorate. The Parish Council is made up of 12 Councillors who prior to being elected are deemed to have volunteered. However once they are elected they are in effect deemed to be mandated by the electorate to serve the community in which they live. As such they carry certain obligations and responsibilities to look after the assets of the community and to best serve its residents

The Chairman role will be filled by one Councillor who is elected once a year by the fellow councillors. The Chairman is responsible for ensuring that effective and lawful decisions are taken at meetings of the council and that Members (Councillors) are fully informed in order to make those decisions. The Chairman is often the public face of the Council and attends many functions arranged by local organisations throughout their year of office. It is a demanding role, but one that is very worthwhile as there is so much contact with the public. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman will preside at meetings and attend functions if invited.



The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) carried out a survey of the make-up of town and parish councils. Only 39% of Councillors across the country are female, only 11% are under the age of 45 and 25% have served on their council for over 10 years.

Tatworth and Forton Parish Council currently has seven females out of its twelve Councillors.

WHO CAN BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

To become a parish councillor, a person is qualified if: he or she is a British subject, is a citizen of the Irish Republic or other Euro national and on the day on which he or she is nominated as a candidate, is over 18 and is an elector. And during the whole of the twelve months preceding his or her nomination day, or the day of election, resided or had his principal place of work in the parish or town, or within three miles of it.

WHAT DOES BECOMING A COUNCILLOR INVOLVE? - A councillor is a member of the Council and is normally elected for a term of four years. The majority of serving councillors on parish and town councils are a broad mix of men and women of all ages.

Whilst they may have differing political views these do not normally extend into their parish or town council work. What parish councillors do all have in common is an active interest in their local community and a concern for it. Councillors take collective decisions which form the policy of the Council. The policy of the Council will therefore reflect the views of the majority of the members.

To do list and timetable to becoming a Councillor on 2nd May 2019

- Check www.southsomerset.gov.uk for nomination papers and information
- Notice of Election will be published on Monday 18th March
- Nominations can be received between 18th March and 3rd April (4.00 pm)
- Thursday 2nd May, polling day from 7am—10pm
- Saturday 4th May, count for parish and town councils
- Tuesday 7th May, start office as a Parish Councillor