



Baydon currently have 3 vacancies for Councillors and we will shortly have 5 vacancies.

Baydon needs a full complement of 7 Councillors to work most effectively and represent a wider range of views from the village. Could you step in?

Why be a Parish Councillor?

Because it's an opportunity to:

- Positively impact the place in which you live
- Get to know a variety of different people from around the village
- Work in a team with other Cllrs who have Baydon's best interests at heart
- Take part in interesting projects that provide better facilities for Baydon
- Take part in interesting projects that provide better facilities for the village
- Help organise and take part in village events and groups
- Experience a challenge – often dealing with opposing views from residents
- Build your skills and personal development with the variety of work that you do as a Cllr
- Do something completely different to your day job

Please contact the Clerk on 07729 225344 or baydonparishclerk@gmail.com

What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the district authority, Wiltshire Council, above it in the hierarchy.

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), traffic calming, crime prevention, managing open spaces/village greens, playgrounds and allotments. They campaign for, deliver and maintain better services, facilities and activities, including village events, footpaths, leisure and sports facilities, youth projects, litter bins, signage and lighting amongst many other things.

Councils usually meet once a month for the council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited to listen, with limited amount of time for public questions. Meetings may last two or three hours, depending on the agenda. In addition to the regular meetings, councillors are required to attend other meetings representing the council. For example acting as a representative on an outside body, community activities or helping develop a new project for the community.

Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well-being.

Parish councils are funded by levying a "precept" collected with the council tax paid by the residents of the parish. Parish councils have unpaid councillors who are elected to serve for four years, unless a casual vacancy arises which may be filled by a by-election or by Co-option of Competence to eligible local councils.

The administration of the Council is managed by the Parish Clerk, who is the only paid employee acting in a combined statutory role as secretary and Responsible Financial Officer of the council. This role is part-time.

The necessary financial monitoring and reporting are the clerk's responsibility, and in this role the clerk is known as the "Responsible Financial Officer" (RFO) of the Council. The clerk is also the "Proper Officer" of the Council. They "enact" (cause to happen) the decisions of the Council, and they receive official correspondence and issue correspondence on the instructions of the Council. The clerk also prepares agendas for meetings of the Council and its committees, gives notice of these to the Council members and the public, and records and publishes the minutes of these meetings. They are the formal point of contact with the public, and are a source of information for the public about the Council's activities.

The clerk also provides procedural guidance for the Council itself, and ensures that statutory and other provisions governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed.

(Extracts from Wiltshire Council Website and Wikipedia).