

Expenses of candidate - who pays? (cont'd)

Joint candidates have lower spending limits, as they are sharing some of the costs. You should calculate the spending limit as explained above, and then reduce it by (i) 25% - a quarter - if there are two joint candidates; or (ii) 33% - a third - if there are three or more joint candidates.

Councillors play a vital role in shaping and directing the effectiveness of local services for the benefit of local people. Councillors work with the Police, Health and other public bodies and with the private sector in order to achieve these aims.

The position of the Councillor is vital in the local community as the voice of the community and the champion of the users of local services playing a vital role in the overall effectiveness of local government.

You do not need to pay a deposit to stand in local government elections.

Will I receive any payment for this role?

For more information please contact a member of your local Parish Council or your Parish Clerk.

Will I receive any training?

For more information please contact a member of your local Parish Council or your Parish Clerk.

Contacts for further information

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Electoral Services Team at South Holland District Council for further details.

tel: 01775 761161 and ask for Electoral Services
www.sholland.gov.uk/council/elections/becomeacouncillor
email: elections@sholland.gov.uk.

Would you like to become a Parish Councillor?



Background

At the most local level, electors are represented by District and Parish Councillors. Parish Councillors either represent a whole parish or, where a parish is divided into sections (wards), will represent the electors of a particular ward of the parish.

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

People stand for election for many reasons:

- To speak on behalf of the local community and help local people;
- To pursue their political beliefs;
- To contribute business or professional skills; and
- To shape the future of the local community.

What is involved in being a Parish Councillor?

For more information please contact a member of your local Parish Council or your Parish Clerk.

Am I able to be a Parish Councillor and how do I stand for election?

To be able to stand as a candidate at a Parish Council Election you must:

- be at least 18 years old on the day of your nomination;
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union;
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - I. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards;
 - II. 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;
 - III. 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; or
 - IV. 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.

Some people become councillors as a result of joining a political party. However, many people stand for election as independents (candidates who do not belong to any political party).

If you are considering standing as a candidate for a particular political party then you will need to be a member of that party's local organisation. For further information in standing for a political party visit the following websites:

- The Electoral Commission: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/
- Politically Independent Candidate: www.picx.co.uk/main.html

How long would I be a Parish Councillor?

Parish Councillors are elected to serve for a four year term of office. Of course, a councillor will cease to hold their position in the instance of resignation, disqualification or death, and in such circumstances a by-election may be held.

Who cannot be a Parish Councillor?

You are not allowed to become a councillor if at the time of your nomination and on the day of the election:

- 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; or
- You have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations) or under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

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 Wales).

Do I need an Election Agent?

Elections agents are not appointed at Parish Council elections.

Expenses of candidate - who pays?

If you decide to become a candidate and subsequently spend money on your campaign, it is important to note that you will have to pay for your own publicity material and items used during the campaign. However, if you are a political party candidate you may find that financial help is available.

Furthermore, although expenses of candidates are not reimbursed by the local authority, you must keep all receipts as these form part of the statement of election expenses which has to be submitted after the election.

The expenditure return is required to ensure that the money spent during the election campaign does not exceed the set limit of £740 plus an additional 6p for every entry in the ward/parish register of electors. Your local Electoral Registration Officer will be able to give you the number of electors in the ward.

There are specific spending limits for joint candidates. You are a joint candidate if you stand in the same ward and (i) have the same election agent; or (ii) use the same campaign rooms; or publish joint material.