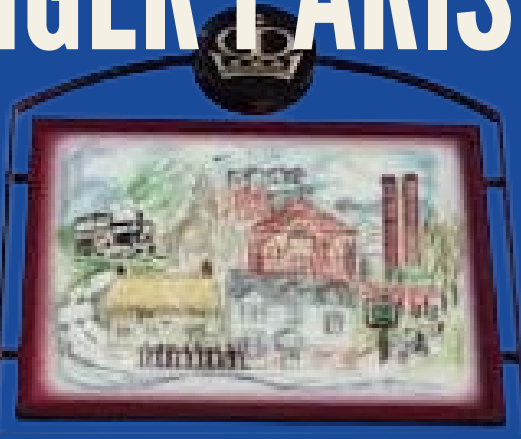


# DEANSHANGER PARISH COUNCIL



2025

# ELECTIONS

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# WHAT ELECTIONS?

Are you interested in making Deanshanger a better place to live and work?

Do you want to represent local people's views?

Are you passionate about the services provided in our community?

Could you use your skills and influence to make a difference?

Elections for seats on Deanshanger Parish Council take place every 4-5 years.

The next election will be on the 1st May 2025.

It's time to think about who you want to represent your views and work on your behalf for the benefit of our community.

As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

If this sounds like YOU, then read on to find out more....

# ABOUT DEANSHANGER PARISH COUNCIL

Parish councils in the UK are vital in managing and improving the local environment and community life, especially in rural and small-town areas.

While their powers are often limited compared to larger local authorities, they remain central to local governance, providing services and facilities, influencing planning decisions, and representing the views and interests of their communities.

Parish councils' responsibilities continue to grow, especially with the opportunities provided by the Localism Act 2011, which has enabled them to take on more control over local planning and development.

Here you can see some bullet points indicating what parish councils do:

- Local representation
- Planning and development
- Managing local amenities and facilities
- Maintaining public infrastructure
- Community events and social activities
- Local funding and grants
- Consulting on local policies and issues
- Emergency and crisis response
- Supporting local heritage and environment
- Working with other authorities

## WHAT DOES A PARISH COUNCILLOR DO?

Our local councillors represent the electors of Deanshanger Parish. They give their time freely and unpaid and have three main areas of work:

- **Decision-making:**

Councillors set an annual budget and then by attending meetings and committees decide which activities to support, where money should be spent and what policies should be implemented.

- **Monitoring:**

Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how things are working.

- **Getting involved locally:**

Councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. Each councillor's contribution depends on their area of interest, their experience, expertise, what they want to achieve and how much time they can realistically offer.

As well as meeting together every month, our Parish councillors also serve on committees and working groups and they can also represent the council on various local organisations. Some councillors are able to fit in more of this work than others.

For most meetings, there will be papers to read beforehand but otherwise much of the council work is done by phone or email.

# OFTEN-HEARD REASON FOR NOT JOINING A PARISH COUNCIL

I'm not interested in  
Politics



That's OK.

What matters more is that you are bothered about where you live and have the best interest of local people at heart.

I don't think the council is very  
effective



Well, maybe you could  
do a better job!

A few new faces on the council would make a big difference, but that will only happen if enough people put themselves forward.

If not then it's likely existing councillors will be appointed automatically.

I have not lived here very long  
and don't know the area well



That's ideal!. As a new resident you will see the village through fresh eyes and bring to the council new ideas and enthusiasm to enhance our community.

I'm worried I won't get many votes

There may not even be a vote! If there are fewer candidates than vacancies then you will be automatically appointed. But even if you fail this time, you may have an opportunity to be co-opted if a vacancy occurs in the future.

I don't know how the  
council works

Join the club!  
Newly-elected councillors rarely have much knowledge of council work but this will come in time, along with experience and confidence.

Help, advice and training are also available but a care for your community and a willingness to learn are the main things you need.

I can't afford it

Being a councillor should cost you very little. Authorised council business expenses incurred are reimbursed.



I'll look a fool because I won't know  
what's going on.

Don't worry you will be eased in gently. The clerk is the officer of the council and will be able to explain the rules, and will support you.



I prefer to leave this political stuff to others

Fair enough but if you are content to sit on the side-lines is it fair to criticize the efforts of those who step up to the plate on your behalf?

As Pericles said  
"Just because you do not take an interest in politics does not mean that politics won't take an interest in you."



# PRACTICALITIES

## ELIGIBILITY

Anyone can stand for election providing they are eligible.

### Am I eligible?

- a British citizen or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union
  - at least 18 years old
- AND any one of the below:
- Registered to vote in Deanshanger Parish
  - Have lived in or within 3 miles of Deanshanger Parish for the past 12 months
  - Principle place of work has been in Deanshanger Parish for the past 12 months
  - Owner or tenant within Deanshanger Parish for the past 12 months

You **can't** be a councillor if you:

- work for the council you want to be a councillor for, or for another local authority in a politically restricted post
- are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- have been sentenced to prison for 3 months or more (including suspended sentences) during the 5 years before election day
- have been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court

## NOMINATIONS

Nomination packs will be available from West Northants Council's Electoral Services Office at the start of the formal election period (Friday 14th March 2025).

To be nominated you will need a proposer to put your name forward as a candidate and a seconder to back up the proposer. Both of these people must be a registered elector of Deanshanger Parish. Your nomination forms must be delivered by hand to West Northants Council no later than the 2nd April 2025

## WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

- **Speak to any of the Parish Councillors**  
You can find their contact details on the Deanshanger Parish Council Website [www.Deanshangerparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.Deanshangerparishcouncil.org.uk)
- **Speak to the Clerk of the Parish Council**  
Phone Teresa Floyd on 01908 566373, or email: [clerk@deanshangerpc.com](mailto:clerk@deanshangerpc.com)
- **Visit West Northants Council Website**  
For more information about how local councils work, the councillor's role and local council elections: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services>