Frequently Asked Questions	
What is the role of a Parish Councillor?	Parish Councillors play an important role in shaping their local community. They represent residents' interests, help decide how local services and facilities are managed, and work to improve the area for everyone. Councillors work together to make decision on behalf of the community, consider local issues, develop new ideas and help shape the future of Drayton.
What will I be doing?	As a parish councillor, you will have opportunities to: • Read Council papers and attend meetings • Discuss local issues and make decisions collectively • Represent residents and consider their concerns • Help develop and deliver Council initiatives • Communicate with residents and work with local organisations • Join Committee or Working Groups, depending on your interests
How much time does it take up?	The main commitment is attending the monthly evening Council meetings, which normally last between one and two hours, depending on the agenda. Councillors are also expected to read meeting papers beforehand and may need to respond to emails, speak to residents or undertake tasks between meetings. There may be opportunities to join Committees or Working Groups, which involve additional meetings and activities. The time commitment will therefore vary depending on your interests and level of involvement. We recognise that everyone has other commitments, and you do not need to be available during the working day to become a Councillor.
What support will I receive?	You will receive support and guidance from the Parish Clerk and fellow Councillors. Induction and training will help you understand the role, the Council's responsibilities and how decisions are made. You do not need previous experience of local government to become a councillor. An interest in your community, a willingness to learn and a commitment to working constructively with others are a good starting point.
Is it a paid role?	Parish councillors are not paid a salary for their role. The Council may, however, reimburse eligible expenses.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can become a parish councillor?

To stand for election to Drayton Parish Council, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- 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
- Meet at leas one of the following conditions:
    - Be registered as a local government elector in Drayton and remain registered throughout your term of office
    - Have occupied land or premises in Drayton as an owner or tenant throughout the 12 months before your nomination and the election
    - Have had your main or only place of work in Drayton throughout the 12 months before your nomination and the election
    - Have lived in Drayton, or within three miles of it, throughout the 12 months before your nomination and the election

You must also not be disqualified from standing for election under the relevant legislation.

For full details of the eligibility requirements, please refer to the Electoral Commission's Guidance for Parish Councils.

How can I become a parish councillor?

There are different way to become a parish councillor, including standing for election or, where a vacancy arises, being considered for co-option by the Council.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Clerk for an informal conversation about the role, the commitment involved and the options available.

We are happy to answer any questions and help you understand the next steps.

Contact the Parish Clerk

Email: office@draytonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 01603 864492