

WILSHAMSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Did You Know.....?

Wilstead Parish Council has a total of eleven seats to be filled across the whole parish in May 2023.

HOW DO I BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR....

The process begins with the publication of the Notice of Election on Monday 20th March.

From this date until the close of nominations on Tuesday 4th April at 4pm, a completed Nomination Paper MUST be delivered to the Monitoring Officer at Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP.

By submitting a completed Nomination Paper you register your intention to stand as a Parish Councillor.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A NOMINATION PAPER....

These will be available from the Borough Council Electoral Services Team who will be running the elections on 718078, or via the Parish Clerk, Lizzie on 743152. They will also be available online, at the Borough Council website <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections-and-voting/>

HOW DO YOU FILL IN A NOMINATION PAPER

The nomination paper MUST be signed by two electors of the parish as proposer and seconder.

The nomination paper shall ask for the electoral roll numbers of the candidate, as well as the proposer and seconder. If you do not know these then please contact the Borough Council Electoral Services Team on 718078, who will be able to provide you with that information.

It is worthwhile handing your form into the Borough Council to enable Officers to check through the form thoroughly, to ensure there are no errors and the form can be accepted.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I QUALIFY TO STAND AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR...

A person is qualified to stand as a candidate if they are a British, Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen and on the relevant day (that is, the day of nomination or election) they are 18 or over. In addition, the person must meet at least one of the following criteria;

- (1) on the relevant day and thereafter they continue to be on the electoral register for the parish, or
- (2) during the whole of the twelve months before that day they have owned or tenanted land or premises in the parish, or
- (3) during the whole of the twelve months before that day their principal or only place of work has been in the parish, or
- (4) during the whole of the twelve months before that day they have resided in the parish or within three miles of it.

Except for qualification (1), these qualifications then continue for the full term of office, until the next ordinary elections.

Certain people are disqualified from standing, and these include paid officers (including the Clerks) of the council, bankrupts and those subject to recent sentences of imprisonment.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHANGE MY MIND... Withdrawals of candidates are permitted up to 4pm on Tuesday 4th April.

HOW DO I THEN KNOW IF THERE IS A PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION...

The Returning Officer will issue a Statement of Persons Nominated by 4pm on Wednesday, 5th April. It will appear on Bedford Borough Council's website and a copy of the relevant part will be posted to each Parish Clerk.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE AND HAVE AN INFORMAL CHAT ABOUT THIS.....

Please feel free to contact Lizzie the Parish Clerk on 743152 or via email on office@wilsteadparishcouncil.org to talk any aspect of this through.