Join the Parish Council

Meriden Parish Council

Make a Change: Become a Parish Councillor

Meriden Parish Council is made up of 8 Parish Councillors who are elected onto the Council every four years. The next Elections will take place in May 2027, but vacancies may also become available at other times.

The Parish Council's Responsibilities

The Parish covers around 3,000 residents in the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, West Midlands. It is located close to the North Warwickshire district border within a green belt of the countryside known as the Meriden Gap. Meriden was historically identified as the centre of England, however when geographical technology advanced it was proved to be inaccurate.

The Parish receives funding from a precept levied on council tax payers by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. It is involved in the delivery of services, improving the quality of life for residents and representing the voice of the community. The work of the Parish Council covers a vast portfolio, some of the Parish Council's current responsibilities include maintaining the Village Green, Memorial Approach and other sites around the village. The Parish Council considers and comments on planning applications within the Parish, it provides allotments at Leys Lane and maintains street furniture such as bus shelters, seating and dog bins as well as the decorative planters around the village.

What Being a Parish Councillor Entails

Parish Councillors are community leaders who represent the interests of the community and are involved in decision-making, monitoring and getting involved locally. 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.

The Parish Council meets 11 times a year in the evening of every third Monday of the month. There are also two committees which meet regularly for detailed discussion of projects around the Parish. Councillors are invited to join a committee if they are interested in a particular area of work, but they are not legally required to do so.

If you would like to do more for your local area and have some time to spare, please do consider becoming a Parish Councillor. It is a rewarding experience which will involve you to work with a team of dedicated volunteers on a range or projects and initiatives.

How do I Become a Parish Councillor?

Parish Councillors hold office for four years. When scheduled elections are held (usually the first Thursday in May, every four years), the terms of all the existing Councillors end on the fourth day after the day of the election, at which time the newly elected Councillors succeed them. In order to stand for election, a candidate must submit a nomination paper. If the number of nominations is the same as there are seats on the Council, the validly nominated candidates automatically become Councillors without a contest. If there are fewer candidates than there are seats on the Council, the validly nominated candidates take up office and the remaining seats may be filled by the process of co-option.

Co-option to Fill Vacancies

To fill a vacancy outside of an election, candidates apply through the process of co-option. Vacancies will be advertised as they become available and applicants should contact the **Parish Clerk** for more information. Applicants submit their relevant documents to the Council including eligibility, why they would like to become a Councillor and a summary of their skills and experiences, and may be asked to give a short presentation to the Council at its monthly meeting. A vote is then carried out at the meeting and, if successful, the applicant will be invited to join the Parish Council.

Requirements

Provided a person is 18 years of age or older on the day they become nominated for election and also satisfies at least ONE of the following they may apply:

- They are registered as a local Government elector for the Parish
- They have during the whole of the preceding twelve months occupied as owner or tenant, any land or premises in the parish.
- Their principal place of work during the preceding 12 months has been in the Parish
- They have during the whole of the preceding 12 months resided in the Parish or within 3 miles of it.

The Council may co-opt any person who is legally qualified to hold such office, and who is willing to serve provided they are either a British citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, qualifying European Union citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights. Candidates are disqualified from holding office if:

- They are employed by the Parish Council or hold a paid office under the Parish Council
- They are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
- They are subject to the notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, and the ordinary period allowed for making an appeal or application in respect of the order or notification has passed
- They 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 and the ordinary period allowed for making an appeal or applications in respect of the conviction has passed
- They have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices)
- They have been convicted of an intimidatory criminal offence motivated by hostility towards a candidate, future candidate or campaigner or holder of a relevant elective office

Further information

Please contact the **Parish Clerk** if you would like to discuss the role of Parish Councillor or would like to talk to a Councillor about their work.

Email: clerk@meridenparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07767 162423