Otterbourne Parish Council

#### has a vacancy for 3

###### PARISH COUNCILLORS

**WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL DOES**

 **The Parish Council is responsible for spending £40,000 of your**

**Council Tax each year. It influences and makes decisions about many aspects of village life including:**

**Play Parks, Recreation Grounds, Open Spaces,**

**Footpaths and Pavements, Street Lighting, Bus Shelters,**

**Conservation, Planning Applications, Aircraft Noise**

**and many other matters.**

 **WORKING AS A COUNILLOR**

 **There are seven Council Meetings per year, each lasting for 2 - 2½ hours which are always on the third Tuesday evening of the month. In addition, there is either a Committee Meeting or Working Party in those months when there is no full Council meeting.**

 **Councillors all want to take part in their village: to make improvements and ensure it remains a safe and pleasant place in which to live.**

**Please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.**

**Clerk - Mrs Julie Ayre – 01962-775481 or email** **clerk.otterbourne@parish.hants.gov.uk**

**or fill out the contact form on the website**

[**https://www.otterbourneparishcouncil.org/**](https://www.otterbourneparishcouncil.org/)

**Why become a Parish Councillor?**

Parish Councillors are either elected or co-opted representatives who volunteer their time to work on behalf of local residents. As a parish councillor you will become a voice for your community, somebody who residents will look to for help, guidance and support. You will be involved in local decision making and strategic planning for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped to make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

**What are the roles and responsibilities involved?**

* As an Otterbourne Parish Councillor you will be one of nine members, supported by the Parish Clerk, who represent the voice of residents within the village. This will involve engaging with local residents to ensure that their views are heard, understood and addressed.
* As part of the Parish Council you will have responsibility for managing local services and amenities, such as the play areas, recreation ground and open spaces, bus shelters, the common and footpaths.
* As part of the Parish Council you will help to make decisions regarding the finances involved in delivering local services.
* You will be involved in working to protect and improve the built and natural environment. This may involve contributing to long term strategic planning consultations and development or being part of the committee that assesses and comments on local planning applications.
* Working where needed on short term local projects.
* Liaising and working in partnership with other organisations, agencies or neighbouring parish councils where necessary.

**What skills will I need to be a Parish Councillor?**

A Council benefits from diversity and we welcome interest from people of different ages, backgrounds, experiences and abilities. Good communication skills, problem solving, analytical thinking, practical help and being a team player are all advantageous attributes.

**How much time does being a councillor take?**

How much time you commit is largely down to what level of involvement you are able to give or hoping for. As a minimum, you would be expected to attend the Parish Council meetings which are held in the evenings and working parties to progress matters.