



West Moors Parish Council

Election Special Newsletter- Elections May 2015



Why not become a Local Parish Councillor?

Have a voice – Stand for elections NOW

Many people wish to become involved in local governance but do not know how to begin.

Local Elections will be taking place on Thursday 7th May 2015. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor you can find out all you need to know at various events being held in the district. Events are being held at:

Wimborne Town Council Offices on Wednesday 4th March between 7pm and 8pm

East Dorset District Council Offices on Tuesday 3rd February at 6.30pm

Christchurch Council offices on Thursday 12th February at 6.30pm.

Alternatively please feel free to come to the parish office to find out what being a parish councillor is all about.

What is a Parish council?

A Parish Council is the collective voice of its community.

Did you know that your local councillors are consulted on nearly everything that happens in your area? They take an active part in influencing what services are and are not provided and that affects you and your family!

Our responsibilities include;

- The administration of Fryer Field recreation area which includes a sports pavilion, a multi-use games area and football pitches, skate park and children's play areas.
- Administration of West Moors Cemetery located in Priory Road.
- Administration of the Petwyn Village Green located in Station Road
- Provision of some street furniture including benches, bus shelters, entry signs into the village

- Consultation on all planning applications within the village.
- Provision of small grants to village organisations.
- Liaison with Dorset County Council with regard to rights of way and footpaths.
- Management and operation of CCTV covering the Fryer Field and MUGA area.

The Parish Council represents the concerns and aspirations of our local community. They are not a voluntary organisation, not a charity nor (a common mistake) anything to do with the Church.

Despite being strictly audited each year, the Parish Council are the most non bureaucratic and the cheapest kind of local authority in existence.

West Moors Parish Council has 4 committees dealing with various functions and activities:

The Environment Committee
 The Finance and General Purpose Committee
 The Planning Consultative Committee
 The Staff and Personnel Committee

What can we do?

As Parish Councils were created in law, they can only act within the law by exercising powers and functions which have been conferred on them by Statutes (i.e. Acts of Parliament). Anything a Parish Council tries to do outside these powers is *ultra vires*, in other words, outside the law. It is how and which of the powers entitled to us that our councillors decide to use, that makes a vibrant forward thinking Parish Council and can bring positive benefits. The basic responsibility of the Parish Council is to make the lives of our local communities more comfortable by representing the whole electorate within the parish, delivering or coordinating services to meet local needs and striving to improve quality of life in the parish.

The Parish Council does not receive any Government funding or income from business rates but are primarily funded at present from a small percentage of the Council Tax charge made by District authorities to local householders. We raise further income from services we provide.

What does a Councillor do?

A Parish Councillor signs a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thereby undertakes to observe an ethical Code of Conduct when dealing with matters on behalf of the community. A councillor also completes a register of interests.

Listening:

One of the most important tasks of a Parish Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people in their community. Many public bodies or organisations acknowledge this is the hardest information for them to capture and they in turn use the skills and local knowledge of the parish council for advice to assist and inform their services.

Meetings:

West Moors Parish Council holds a meeting of the full council once a month and committee meeting are scheduled in-between. Meetings are held in the evening at the Pavilion, Fryer Field.

Representation:

Each councillor is expected to serve on two committees and may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the parish council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on District, County and regional changes.

Extra skills and training:

No individual councillor is responsible for any single decision. This is democracy at its best. Training is available for Councillors from the local Association (Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils), the Clerk of the Council and support can be found from colleagues.

Applying to become a councillor

Parish Councillors are elected by the public and serve a four year term in office.

If you wish to stand as a councillor you must satisfy these requirements:

- You need to be over 18 years of age
- A British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union
- On the Electoral Register for the council area for which you wish to stand,
- A local government elector of the parish; or a person who during the whole of the twelve months before nomination as a candidate occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish; or has, during the same period, resided in that area or within three miles thereof; or has during the same period, had a principal or only place of work in that area

You cannot stand for election if you:

- Are bankrupt and an Order or Interim Restriction Order has been imposed.
- Have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine
- Work for the council where you are intending to stand for election (but you can work for other local authorities, including the principal authorities that represent the same area).
- Have been convicted or reported guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court, or have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority

Procedure for applying:

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Parish Office or East Dorset District Council Offices in Furzehill, online at www.dorsetforyou.com/elections or www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

Notice of Election – Monday 16 March 2015 – This will be displayed locally and on the Internet by this date.

Close of Nominations – 4pm on Thursday 9 April 2015. Elections' Offices will let you know who is standing in your area and if the election is contested.

Close of Withdrawals – 4pm on Thursday 9 April 2015 The deadline for withdrawing a nomination.

Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated – 4pm on Friday 10 April 2015. However in some areas this may be available online earlier. This will be displayed on the Internet only.

Notice of Poll – Tuesday 28 April 2015 – This is usually displayed on the Internet before this date.



Apply today and have a say in what happens tomorrow

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the parish office or a parish councillor.

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We're on the Web

See us at:

www.westmoors-pc.gov.uk



WEST MOORS PARISH COUNCIL
'WORKING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD'

Contacting Your Councillors

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Cllr David Butt
75 Elmhurst Road, BH22 0DG
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Cllr Mrs Isobel Dale
62 Moorlands Road, BH22 0JW
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Cllr Pete Holden
28 Oakhurst Lane, BH22 0DT
☎: 01202 891604

Cllr Mrs Olive Holder
19 Kingfisher Close, BH22 0DX
☎: 01202 862896

Cllr Jim Lewis
31 Queens Close, BH22 0HW
☎: 01202 861044

Cllr Mrs Jayne Lovegrove
45 Glenwood Road, BH22 0EN
☎: 01202 892361

Cllr Robert Smith
54 Pinehurst Road, BH22 0AP
☎: 01202 870703

Cllr Mrs Jean Ware
14 Blackfield Lane, BH22 0NH
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