



Vacancy for Surlingham Parish Councillor

- Do you want to help make the parish of Surlingham a better place to live?
 - Are you interested in making a difference to your community?
 - Do you want to represent the views of local residents?

Surlingham Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

By becoming a Parish Councillor, you become someone in the community that local residents can look to for help, guidance, and support. In essence you become a community leader with the power to influence and contribute ideas for the benefit of people you serve.

If you would like to make a difference and be involved in shaping the future of your local community, why not put yourself forward and apply to become a Surlingham Parish Councillor.

If you are wishing to be considered for the role of Parish Councillor then please contact the clerk for more information and/or an application form – Charlotte Rust, clerk@surlingham-pc.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 30th October 2026.

Applications will be considered at Surlingham Parish Council's meeting being held on Tuesday 10th November 2026.

Becoming a Parish Councillor – Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Parish Council do?	Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues which affect the local community. Some of the common topics which the parish council participate in are planning matters, speeding, roads and highways, local facilities such as play areas and pocket parks. Parish councils have limited powers to make decisions, but they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence those other organisations that make final decisions (such as county councils, health authorities, police etc.). In this respect parish councils are extremely powerful as the organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and its views are taken seriously.
What does a Parish Councillor do and how much time does it take up?	Parish councillors have a dual role: • They represent the views and concerns of the residents of the parish to the parish council itself and, through it, to the district, county or unitary authority; • They report back to residents on issues affecting the parish. The Parish Council usually meets monthly for the full council meeting to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last 2-2.5 hours, depending on what is on the agenda. For more information on the council and roles, please visit our website. In addition to regular meetings Councillors are required to give time for 'ad hoc' meetings (e.g. meeting contractors or community groups) and working on projects or working groups. The workload varies, but an average weekly estimate of 2-3 hours would be reasonable. In return is the immense satisfaction of putting something back into your community.
How long do Parish Councillors serve for?	Once elected (or co-opted), parish councillors sit on the council for a maximum of four years. If they want to stay in the post, they can stand for re-election. This does not mean that you have to stay for four years. If you find it is not for you, or you can no longer meet the commitment, you can stand down
What support and training are available to councillors?	Councillors have substantial support performing their duties. Firstly, there is support from fellow councillors and the Parish Clerk who can offer a wide range of advice and guidance. Secondly, we provide access to extensive councillor training through Norfolk ALC (Norfolk Association of Local Councils).

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?	To be eligible to be a Parish Councillor then you must meet the following criteria: I am: - Over 18 and a British Citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union AND meet at least one of the following four qualifications: 1. Registered as a local government elector for the parish; 2. The owner or tenant of any land or other premises in the parish during the whole of the last 12 months; 3. Working and my main or only place of work during the past 12 months has been in the parish; 4. Residing in the parish or within three miles of it and have been during the whole of the last 12 months. I am not: - Employed by the Council (now or in the past 12 months). - Subject to bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order. - In receipt of a sentence to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without option of a fine during the past five years. - Disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 from holding public office.
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