

Empingham Parish Council

CO-OPTION VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Empingham parish Council is seeking to co-opt a member to the Parish Council.

Applications are invited from people who wish to be considered for co-option. Should you be interested in applying and you qualify under the appropriate section of the Local Government Act 1972 (see below), then please contact the Parish Clerk in writing **by 10th September 2024**

**Empingham Parish Clerk
Mrs R Scholtz
9 Highfield Close
Empingham
Rutland
LE15 8QB
Clerk@empinghamcouncil.org.uk**

Am I qualified?

You have to be:

- be a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union, and
- be at least 18 years old
- for the whole of the previous 12 months an elector of the Parish and either occupied or owned/rented premises in the Parish, or resided within 3 miles of the boundary of the Parish or had your principle or only place of work there.

You cannot:

- be the subject of a bankruptcy restriction Order or interim order
- have, with five years before the day of co-option been convicted in the UK of any offence, and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine
- work for the Council you want to be a Councillor for.

Persons co-opted must receive a majority of votes of those Councillors present and voting at a meeting of the Parish Council

What is a Parish Councillor?

Parish Councillors are volunteers who give up their time to try and make the Parish a better place to live and work. They have a range of powers and duties over local facilities, and make decisions which effect Parishioner's everyday lives.

Councillors are not paid and have to abide by a code of conduct and to rules that apply to the disclosure of some business or financial interests and non-registerable or disclosable pecuniary interests.

There is also a duty to behave in an ethical manner according to a Code of Conduct.

To appreciate what is involved in being a Parish Councillor you need to know what a Parish Council is, and what it can and cannot do. The Parish Council is nothing to do with the Church or Diocese; nor is it a voluntary and community sector body. Your Parish Council is the local authority closest to the electorate. A Parish Council is a separate legal, corporate entity. First created by the Local Government Act or 1894 in most rural areas.

A Parish Council provides services for the local people. These range from recreation grounds to Cemeteries. What is provided is down to your Council. Like any statutory body it can only do the things for which the law or any governing document gives power.

**The purpose of Empingham Parish Council is to
PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE PARISH**

This includes;

Involvement with Rutland County Council (RCC) activities and representation on other groups e.g. Rutland Water Partnership,

Management of the cemetery, and overseeing the playing field,

Support for activities that contribute to the wellbeing of the community.