

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPRESENT YOUR COMMUNITY?

BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Would you like to have more of a say in what goes on in your local area? Are you passionate about a facility/service where you live or is a particular service missing? Do you believe that sections of the community need more representation? Whatever your motivation, stand for what you believe in - be a parish councillor.

Vacancies often arise as a result of changing job and family commitments and this is the situation at Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council. We are a great group of people who enjoyably tread that line between adhering to the legal stuff, keeping things as informal and friendly as possible and achieving the best we can for everyone.

We have five vacancies available for immediate co-option (where the parish councillors meet you and vote you in, rather than hold an election). **In particular we need representatives for the Croome and Defford areas please**, but anyone is welcome. (Age/address criteria apply).

Chair for Parish Council said: "Councillors make an enormous difference in the areas that they represent. Becoming a councillor allows you to influence change for the better. It gives the enormous satisfaction of knowing that, through your work, smaller voices are heard, be they minority voices or voices that previously were simply ignored."

Lisa Stevens, Parish Clerk, said "You don't need any special qualifications or expertise to become a parish councillor...work experience, life experience, volunteering, all are extremely valuable to a Parish Council. A Councillor with business acumen is just as valuable as a Councillor with a family background. Everyone has something to bring and everyone has something to contribute".

Current Parish Councillor said, "I have heard Parish Council meetings described as a grown up version of 'show and tell'. However, fundamentally and most importantly it is also 'listen and learn', 'debate, disagree, understand and finally come to the best decision possible for the Parish'. As individuals we come together to work out solutions and as a team we have the momentum to bring about change."

Previous Parish Councillor, said "How much time you spend on your duties as a councillor is largely up to you and will depend on the particular commitments you take on. Joining a committee increases your workload as there are more meetings to attend. As with most things in life, what you get back will depend on how much you put in."

If you think you could be a voice for your community please get in touch.

Mrs Lisa Stevens - Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

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Need a more traditional job description?

- As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work and make improvements for the benefit of all.
- You will have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.
- You will be committed to all aspects of a Councillors' role, including:
 - o decision-making. (Deciding where money should be spent and what services should be delivered);
 - o monitoring to ensure that decisions lead to effect and effect services
 - o getting involved locally, listening and responding. (As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations and, depending on what you want to achieve may mean going to meetings of local organisations (for example the police) and making representatives to the district or county council).
- You will be supported in your role and advice and training will be made available.
- You should be comfortable working electronically.
- You should be able to attend Full Council meetings once every other month in person. (For the public, we are looking at streaming council meetings live at our temporary home at Croome National Trust Visitor Centre - the National Trust has recently improved wifi services for all who meet in the premises and this is an important project for us to tackle this year).
- You will have due regard to parish council relevant legislation and to legislation as an employer and the data protection act – NB training and support is always fully available in this respect and does not require previous knowledge or experience.
- Most are independent of political party affiliations but some represent a political party.
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