

What is a Parish Council?



**Hartley Parish Council
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What is a Parish Council?

A Parish Council is the tier of local government closest to the people. A Parish Council represents the concerns of the local community. It is an elected body made up of local people representing the interests of the community.

Hartley Parish Council has 13 members who try to ensure that the views of residents are expressed and taken into account by the various authorities, agencies and organisations that make the legislation and take the decisions on services and issues affecting the community.

Your Parish Councillors are: Mr Larry Abraham (Vice-Chairman), Mr Chris Alford, Mr Roger Burchell, Mrs Jane Burns, Mr Robert Coates, Mrs Penny Cole, Mrs Valerie Fernley, Mr Laurence Glander, Mr David Graeme, Mr Michael Horwood, Mrs Anne Oxtoby (Chairman), Mr Brian Ramsay and Mr Vince Sewell.

Should you wish to contact any of the Councillors, you may do so via the Clerk at the Parish Office.

What does it do?

The Parish Council is responsible for Hartley's open spaces, playgrounds and the Burial Ground & Gardens of Remembrance. The Parish Council also responds to and comments on planning applications, structure plans and government discussion documents. It is also involved in crime prevention measures and any initiatives that will improve the quality of life of its residents.

The Council's Committees are: Amenities & Open Spaces, Burial Grounds & Gardens of Remembrance, Finance, General Purposes, Personnel and Planning. Details of meetings are displayed on the Parish Council's notice boards and on the website. All Committee meetings are open to the public.

When does the Council hold its meetings and can I attend?

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month (with the exception of August) at 7.30p.m. at the Pavilion, Manor Field.

Residents are encouraged to attend Council meetings, and notice of the Parish Council and Committee meetings are displayed on the Council's notice boards located at Hartley Library, Hoselands Green and All Saints' Church. Details are also posted on the Parish Council's website.

In addition to the Parish Council and Committee meetings, there is an Annual Parish Meeting which is usually held in May. Again, residents are encouraged to attend.

How does the Parish Council communicate with residents?

The Parish Council produces a quarterly newsletter which is delivered to every household in Hartley. An Annual Report is produced in May of each year, outlining the work undertaken by the Council and each Committee, this is delivered to each household by 30th June each year. The Annual Report also includes a summary of the Council's accounts for the year. Both the Annual Report and the newsletter can be viewed on the Council's website and copies are also available from Hartley Library.

The Parish Council's bi-monthly Surgeries have been temporarily suspended, as they have become increasingly poorly attended by residents. However, should you have any issues that you would like to discuss, Councillors will be happy to meet with you by prior arrangement. To arrange an appointment please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office.

