

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

Arkengarthdale Parish Council seeks expressions of interest for the role of Parish Councillor.

Interested candidates are asked to email an 'expression of interest' statement to the Clerk, Susan Dray:
arkengarthdalepc@gmail.com

The statement should include the following information:

- your full name & address including telephone number
- your reason for wishing to be a Councillor
- an outline of your previous community or Council work
- an account of other skills you can bring to the Parish Council

The closing date for expressions of interest is **Friday 2 July 2021**

To be eligible as a Parish Councillor you must:

- be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union
- be at least 18 years old
- be an elector of Arkengarthdale Parish, or in the past 12 months have occupied land or other premises in the Parish (as owner or tenant) or work in the Parish (as your principal or only place of work) or live within three miles of the Arkengarthdale Parish boundary.

What do Parish or Town councils do?

- A Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the Parish. It is the level of local government closest to the community, with the district authority and the county authority or a principal authority further up the hierarchy.
- Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that Parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention and roads & highways.
- Parish councils have a number of powers they can use and have the ability to negotiate with other decision-making organisations such as the district, county or unitary councils, health authorities, police etc. In this respect Parish councils are extremely powerful. These organisations know that a Parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something and its views should be taken seriously.

How much time does it take up?

Councils usually meet every other month (6 times a year) for the council meeting to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings may last up to two hours.

How long do I serve for as a Parish Councillor?

Parish councillors sit on the council for four years. If they then 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's not for you, or you can no longer meet the commitment, you can stand down.

The best way to find out what it's like to be a Parish Councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Names and contact details of the current councillors are available at: www.arkengarthdale.org.uk