

# PARISH COUNCILLORS WANTED

Great Bedwyn Parish Council is struggling and really needs more councillor volunteers to sustain it. We are a parish of 580 dwellings and over 1,000 people and I know many among us want to help and already give our time to support the community in countless different and wonderful ways. However only 6 of the 11 councillor seats are currently filled.

At the current level the parish council is only just about managing. Our current dedicated councillors and staff are just about covering our duties in planning, allotments and maintaining the playground. We have also had time to make progress on the green agenda. However, we are not able to progress with a whole raft of other important areas such as maintaining flood defences, managing speeding, maintaining village spaces and most importantly representing and actioning the parish's views. Some have written to the council decrying our lack of willingness to enter the Best Kept Village competition - but with the current level of support that seems a long way off.

What we need is the time of councillors to discuss, organise and arrange things. We have some funds and can employ contractors where necessary. We have a fantastic professional Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to help us.

Becoming a councillor is easy, but there are a few criteria:

- Live in the parish.
- Have some spare time. There are at least 6 meetings a year and we are looking for a few hours a month on top.
- Play well with others. Everything the council does has to be debated and agreed amongst us, on a majority vote. Calm, considerate and being able to gracefully accept the views of others is a must.
- Acceptance that there is a ton of bureaucracy and it's only getting worse. Things do move slowly.

If you want to help your community please come along to our next meetings on 12 May and 14 July to see what we do. Please contact [clerk@greatbedwyn-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbedwyn-pc.gov.uk) if you have any questions. There's more info at [www.greatbedwyn-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greatbedwyn-pc.gov.uk).

Ian Barry  
Chair  
Great Bedwyn Parish Council