

# FAQ's

## What does the Parish Council do?

Your local council has an overall responsibility for the well-being of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

Delivery of Services including:

- Allotments
- Leisure facilities
- Bus shelters
- Litter bins
- Parks and open spaces

Give Communities a Voice through representing:

- To the local police and health services
- On Planning matters with principle authorities and developers
- To Parliamentarians and government

Improving quality of life for residents

## What Do Parish Councillors Do?

Local councillors have three main areas of work:

- **Decision-making:** through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- **Monitoring:** councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
- **Getting involved locally:** as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

## How are councillors elected?

Elections are held **every four years** and will usually coincide with a District Council election. Details of when elections are held can be found by clicking [here](#). A Public Notice of a forthcoming election will be placed on noticeboards.

Sometimes the number of people who put their names forward for election equals or is less than the number of seats on the council. In these circumstances there is not a poll on election day and the people nominated are deemed elected. If the number deemed elected is less than the number of seats on the council, then the council is required to co-opt people onto the council to fill the vacancies.

If a seat on the council becomes vacant between normal elections then a special procedure must be followed which can lead to an election or, more usually, the co-option of a new councillor. It is good practice for a council to advertise widely in the parish if it is seeking to make a co-option.

## **Where and When do the meetings take place?**

Meetings are held on the **second Monday every month at Holbeach Methodist Church, Albert Walk, Holbeach**. All members of the public are welcome, with an open forum at **19:00 hrs** for the public to address the council or raise any concerns.

## **Can I attend a Parish Council meeting?**

Yes, you can. There is a **10-minute public participation session** at the beginning of the meeting for members of the public to raise a concern or ask a question. Once the formal meeting starts members of the public are welcome to stay and observe but cannot approach the Parish Council or interrupt proceedings.

## **How much notice should be given for a meeting?**

**Three clear days** (excluding weekends and public holidays) for a meeting of the full council.

## **How can I contact the Parish Council to raise a query, report a matter of concern or to provide information?**

Contact the Parish Clerk at  
Telephone: 01406 426739  
Email: [holbeachpc@btconnect.com](mailto:holbeachpc@btconnect.com)

## **Where does the parish council get their money from?**

Each year a sum of money called a 'precept' is collected through your council tax. This money is invested back into your local neighbourhood by your local council to improve facilities and services for you and your neighbours. Local councils can also apply for grants and loans and, if they own property, can receive money from rents or leases. They can also borrow money from the Public Works Loan Board

## **Are Parish Councillor's paid?**

No, it is a purely voluntary role. They may however claim expenses e.g. mileage, telephone calls

## **What powers do Parish Councils have with respect to planning applications?**

Parish Councils are consulted by the relevant Planning Authority (South Holland District Council) on all planning applications. Any views expressed by the Parish Council will be considered by the SHDC before a decision is made, providing the points made are relevant to the determination of a planning application. The final decision is made by the SHDC, not the Parish Council.