



## Becoming a Parish Councillor: A Guide for East Hunsbury Residents

The 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 is an exciting opportunity to vote for your local councillors in elections for West Northamptonshire Council and local parish councils, in the first elections for four years.

But why not take the chance to get more involved and think about standing to become a parish councillor yourself?

East Hunsbury Parish Council is made up of 12 councillors who work together to improve the lives of everyone in our community. From organising community events, to overseeing local services, supporting schools and local organisations, and ensuring our open spaces are well-maintained - the council is at the heart of East Hunsbury life.

Having a diverse group of councillors on board helps us to look forward and deliver for everyone in our community. If you're a young professional, a parent with young children, or someone looking to give back to the community, this could be your moment to shine. By bringing fresh perspectives, new ideas, and lived experiences, you'll play a key role in making East Hunsbury an even better place to live.

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### What Does a Parish Councillor Do?

Being a parish councillor is an incredibly rewarding role. It's a chance to make a real difference in your neighbourhood, represent your community, and help shape the decisions that impact us all. Whether working on new initiatives, improving local facilities, or giving a voice to younger families in the area, your input could make a lasting impact.

Parish councillors are elected representatives, not volunteers. As a councillor, you serve the community by:

- **Decision-Making** – Shaping policies and making decisions on services, projects, and local initiatives.
- **Monitoring** – Overseeing the effective delivery of services to ensure they meet community needs.
- **Representation** – Acting as the voice of residents, raising concerns, and advocating for local interests.

Councillors work collectively as part of a team, managing local amenities, addressing community issues, and working towards making East Hunsbury a great place to live.

With more responsibilities being passed down to parish councils, now is an important time to get involved and make an impact.

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## The Commitment Involved

As an elected representative, there is an expected level of commitment in the role. Councillors are not just required to attend meetings – they should also:

- **Be Prepared** – Read agendas and supporting documents and find out more before meetings.
- **Be Active and Engaged** – Participate in discussions, ask questions, and contribute to decision-making.
- **Attend Other Events** – Represent the council at community events, workshops, and training sessions.

Councillors play a key role in shaping the parish and must be committed to serving the best interests of residents.

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## Training and Support for New Councillors

East Hunsbury Parish Council provides full support to new councillors, including:

- **Training Sessions** – Covering council operations, governance, and community engagement.
- **Guidance** - from experienced councillors, the Clerk, and other parish council staff to help you settle into the role.
- **Ongoing Development** – Opportunities to attend workshops and training courses, including those provided by Northants CALC.

New councillors are encouraged to attend ‘Off to a Flying Start’, a training course designed to help them begin their role with confidence.

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## What Makes a Good Councillor?

While councillors come from all walks of life, key qualities include:

- **Commitment** – Willingness to dedicate time and effort to council matters.
- **Engagement** – Actively participating in meetings and council activities.
- **Integrity** – Acting with honesty and respect in all dealings.
- **Community Focus** – A strong desire to represent and improve the area.
- **Openness to Learning** – Willingness to develop new skills and attend training.

No formal qualifications are needed – just a passion for making a difference.

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## Benefits of Becoming a Councillor

Serving as a parish councillor offers many benefits, including:

- **Personal Fulfilment** – The satisfaction of making a tangible impact in your community.
- **Skill Development** – Improving leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- **Networking Opportunities** – Connecting with fellow councillors, local groups, and decision-makers.

By standing for election, you have the chance to shape the future of East Hunsbury and ensure it remains a thriving, well-supported community.

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### **Find Out More**

**For more information on becoming a parish councillor and upcoming elections, visit:**

 [East Hunsbury Parish Council Website](#)

 [Northants CALC – Elections Information](#)

**Or contact the parish office to speak to the Clerk or an existing councillor about their experience.**

**Will you step forward to serve your community?**