

# Harringworth & Shotley

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

**THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025**

### STEP UP FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

#### Become a Parish Councillor

As the upcoming parish council elections on 1st May 2025 approach, Harringworth Parish Council invites residents to consider standing for one of the seven seats on our council. This is a unique opportunity to play an active role in shaping the future of our community. If you meet the standard criteria for eligibility, we encourage you to step forward and make a difference.

#### Why become a Parish Councillor?

Being a parish councillor is an incredibly rewarding experience. It provides a chance to influence local decisions, improve services, and ensure that the voices of residents are heard. With the ongoing devolution of responsibilities from the government to unitary authorities, and subsequently to parish councils, our council's role may become increasingly significant.

#### What does Harringworth Parish Council do?

- maintains the closed churchyard
- owns and maintains the open cemetery
- grass verge cutting
- owns and maintains the street lighting
- manages some of the salt bins
- considers and responds to NNC on planning matters
- erects street poppies and remembrance furniture
- meets governance and statutory obligations
- maintains the defibrillator
- publishes all statutory documents on the parish website

**YOUR  
vote**

**YOUR  
voice**

To become a parish councillor you must register by 2 April 2025. Visit [Harringworth & Shotley website](#) for an application form or scan the QR code.



## Training and support

We understand that stepping into a role like this can feel daunting. That's why, through our membership of Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils we are able to offer comprehensive training for all councillors. Training is not only available when you join but is ongoing and encouraged throughout your tenure. This ensures that you're well-equipped to handle the responsibilities of the role and confident in your ability to contribute effectively.

## What we're looking for in councillors

In the past, many potential councillors have expressed a desire to "give something back to the community." While this sentiment is admirable, parish councils have evolved and so have the expectations of councillors. Today, a councillor is expected to take an active role in the running of the council and the wider parish. Here are some of the key qualities and commitments we're seeking:

- engagement and preparation: councillors are expected to attend bi-monthly meetings, come prepared by reviewing the agenda and associated documents in advance, and be ready to vote on issues. Abstaining from votes is discouraged, as it diminishes the representation of our electorate.
- active participation: councillors are encouraged to take the lead on certain issues, such as footpaths and finance. All councillors are expected to contribute proactively to the work of the council.
- event involvement: Haringworth Parish Council meets at least six times a year. Councillors are expected to attend these meetings, demonstrating their commitment to community engagement.
- computer literacy: a reasonable level of computer literacy is essential for modern council operations, from accessing meeting agendas and documents that are held on the 'Cloud' to participating in virtual discussions when necessary.

## The benefits of becoming a councillor

Being a parish councillor is not just about responsibilities; it's also about personal growth and community impact. You will:

- develop new skills and enhance existing ones, including leadership, decision-making, and teamwork.

- build strong connections within the community and with other like-minded individuals.
- gain a deeper understanding of local governance and the satisfaction of knowing you're making a tangible difference.

## A commitment, not just a title

We want to be transparent about the commitment required. Becoming a councillor is not about simply attending meetings unprepared or offering minimal input. It's about being an active and engaged member of a team, dedicated to improving the parish and representing the community effectively. If you're ready to take on this rewarding challenge, we encourage you to stand for election and help shape the future of Haringworth & Shotley. For more information on the upcoming elections and how to apply, please contact the Haringworth Parish Council Clerk. Let's work together to continue building a thriving and resilient community.

## To stand as a candidate in a parish council election, you must:

1. be at least 18 years old.
2. be a British citizen, eligible Commonwealth citizen, citizen of the Republic of Ireland, qualifying EU citizen, or EU citizen with retained rights.

## You must also meet at least one of the following qualifications:

1. be registered as a local government elector for the parish from the day of your nomination.
2. have owned or rented land or premises in the parish for the 12 months prior to your nomination and the election
3. have worked in the parish as your main or only place of employment during the 12 months before your nomination and the election.
4. have lived in the parish or within three miles of it for the entire 12 months before your nomination and the election.

If you have any queries, please contact us:

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