

ELECTIONS SPECIAL



Corfe Mullen Town Council

Council Office
Towers Way
Corfe Mullen
Wimborne
Dorset BH21 3UA



WHO ARE CORFE MULLEN TOWN COUNCIL?

They are the first tier of local government closest to the people, representing the concerns and aspirations of the whole community. Providing a wide range of services from maintaining open green spaces, sports facilities, play areas, cemeteries and allotments.

The responsibility of the Town Council is to make the lives of its community more comfortable by representing the whole electorate within the parish, delivering or co-ordinating services to meet local needs and striving to improve quality of life in the parish.

The Town Council embodies the representation of people's hopes and concerns for ensuring that local services are provided efficiently and effectively for the benefit of community wellbeing.

The Town Council is the collective voice of the community.

WHAT DOES A TOWN COUNCILLOR DO?

Most people's impression of a Councillor is that they just attend council meetings, and nothing could be further from the truth. The duties and pleasure of being a Councillor are many and varied. However, it is the ordinary day-to-day contact with local people in the community that is the most important part of being a Councillor.

A Councillor signs a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thereby undertakes to observe an ethical Code of Conduct when dealing with matters on behalf of the community. Councillors also complete a register of interests to provide details of any interests that might give rise to a conflict of interest, when undertaking their duties as a Councillor.

Listening: One of the most important tasks of a Councillor is listening to and understanding the views of people within the community.

Meetings: Councillors agree to attend all meetings, where reasonably possible, when summoned by the Clerk. Most meetings are held in the evening, but some committees and group representation will be during the day. Some of these committees include planning, finance, staffing and amenities. Each Councillor is only expected to serve on one or two committees.

Representation: Town Councils also need representation at other local government meetings or on local bodies/organisations. Councillors may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the Town Council. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on Unitary and regional changes.

Councillors represent the voice of their community as a whole, whilst being aware of and considerate to, specific minority needs.

Ceremonial Duties: There may be times when Councillors are asked to attend civic events as part of their duty to the community. This may entail Remembrance Parades or attendance at public functions to name but a few.



Telephone: **01202 698600**, lines open Monday to Thursday 9am – 2pm (except bank holidays)

Email: **office@corfemullen-tc.gov.uk**

Extra skills: Through all these functions' Councillors will draw on their own skills and experiences and it is the sharing of these skills that makes a strong team. The Town Council provides a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects and endeavour to solve them locally themselves. Councillors working as a team will need to deal with employment issues, budgeting, asset management, project management, grant funding and lots more.

Accounts must be kept and the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer is employed to carry out this duty. Councillors together as a team are responsible for the financial decisions made and implemented. The Clerk is employed to advise and seek advice on behalf of Councillors to assist them in their decisions. Councillors are there to consider the information gathered and make a group decision on all matters. No individual Councillor is responsible for any single decision. This is democracy at its best.

All Councillors are expected to be able to use information technology to access information, emails and meeting papers.

Training and support: The Town Council supports training for all its Councillors. Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) provides professional training programmes designed specifically for Councillors.

Responsibility: All Councillors are expected to abide by the Town Councils Code of Conduct. The responsibilities detailed in the Code of Conduct are designed to protect Councillors as well as the people they serve and give clear guidance so that Councillors can undertake their duties with confidence.

The Town Council depends on local people taking an interest in what happens in their community, whatever their background and local people standing, as Councillors can bring a wealth of knowledge and community understanding into the team.

If you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor or know someone who might just need some encouragement, now is the time to act, get the forms and send them off.

APPLYING TO BECOME A TOWN COUNCILLOR

Whilst relatively easy, there is a process to follow and if not followed exactly, will result in disappointment and rejection for the wrong reasons! The rules are there to ensure that only those who are eligible to stand for election in the community are considered and that those put forward have agreed to stand for election. Councillors are elected by the public and will serve a five-year term in office.

If you wish to stand as a Town Councillor you must satisfy certain requirements, listed on the Town Council website.

GETTING THE NOMINATION FORMS

The nomination pack can be found on the Town Councils website or hard copies are available from the Town Council office. Anyone who is eligible to stand can request these forms.

COMPLETING THE NOMINATION FORMS

You will need to fill in all your personal details and sign along with those people nominating you.

You and those nominating you will also be asked to fill in your electoral number including the polling district which are available on the Electoral Register.

Copies of the Electoral Register are kept by Dorset Council at County Hall in Dorchester, libraries and by the Clerk at the Town Council office.

If you require assistance in completing the nomination forms, please contact the Town Council office, who will endeavour to assist you..

SENDING THE NOMINATION FORMS BACK

It is imperative that you submit your completed nomination forms in person, by appointment. Appointments can be made to attend Allendale House in Wimborne up to **27 March 2024** or alternatively no later than 4pm on **5 April 2024** at County Hall in Dorchester.

Please see the Elections 2024 Timetable and all locations to submit your nomination forms in person, on the Town Council website. Failure to meet the dates stated will render your application null and void.

Help us to meet your needs by standing as a Town Councillor and also remember to vote on Thursday 2 May 2024.

Now is the time to ensure your name is on the Electoral Register so that you can support the community and vote. Copies of the Electoral Register are kept by Dorset Council at County Hall in Dorchester, libraries and by the Clerk at the Town Council office, so a quick check to make sure your name is there would take no time at all. It's your right to vote, so don't miss out.

Forms and useful information can be found at www.corfemullen-tc.gov.uk/elections