

Rainton with Newby Parish Council

Co-option of a Parish Councillor

The principal role of a Parish Councillor is to take collective decisions on behalf of all residents within the Parish. The role is unpaid but councillors are not volunteers – they are elected representatives and holders of public office with statutory powers. Following the resignation of Cllr Price, an opportunity has arisen to co-opt a new parish councillor, who will serve until the next local elections in May 2027 and then stand for re-election if they so wish. This notice sets out what a parish councillor does, and the kind of person the Council hopes will be able to join them.

Job Description

Rainton with Newby Parish Council meets in the evening on the second Tuesday of each month, apart from August, in the Village Hall. The Council consists of the Chair, the Deputy Chair and five other councillors, and the work of the Council is guided by the Clerk. It makes decisions as a corporate body in an open and transparent way.

Councillors may be called upon to

- comment on planning applications as part of the planning process;
- suggest ideas for the improvement of the environment in the Parish;
- be responsible for maintaining parish assets;
- identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents;
- help set the annual 'Precept' (paid by parishioners through their council tax, to fund local services) and help set the annual budget for the Council;
- contribute to the drafting of Council policies, risk assessments and plans;
- help to respond to formal requests for the Council's opinion, for instance from the County Council or national bodies such as the Boundary Commission;
- consider representing the Council on an outside body, such as the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) or the Village Hall Committee;
- help ensure that parishioners are kept informed of the Council's work and decisions.

Person Specification

Anyone holding public office is expected to uphold the seven principles of public life called the 'Nolan Principles', which are: to be selfless, to show integrity and objectivity, to be accountable and open and honest, and to show leadership.

Councillors must complete a register of interests, to be published on the Council's website. They must also abide by the Council's Code of Conduct.

Each councillor brings different skills and experience to the role. New Councillors are expected to attend a day's training with the YLCA.

A Parish Councillor needs to:

- have a sincere interest in representing the local community;
- contribute constructively to the good governance of the Council;
- deal patiently with parishioner enquiries, fairly and without prejudice, in a timely manner, referring to the Council as appropriate;
- have access to the internet and be conversant with email.

If you are interested, please send a brief letter or CV to the Clerk, Mrs Sarah Adamson, clerk@raintonparishcouncil.gov.uk explaining why you would like to be a councillor and what you think you might bring to the role.

Closing date for applications is Friday 29th August 2025.