

Can I stand for election?

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish Council election you must:

- Be at least 18 years old;
- Be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth Citizen or a citizen of any members state of the European Union, and;
- Meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - a) You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - b) You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
 - c) Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area.
 - d) You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

Apart from meeting the qualifications for standing for election, you must also not be disqualified. For full details on these please visit the Electoral Commission website in particular [Part 1 Can you stand for election P and C \(electoralcommission.org.uk\)](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

How do I put myself forward for election?

Local Council elections will be held on 6 May 2021. You will need to complete and return nomination papers to Cornwall Council. The deadline for receipt is **4 pm on Thursday 8 April 2021.**

For further information including on how to obtain nomination papers please following this link: [Parish and Town Council Elections - 6 May 2021 - Cornwall Council](#)

Why would I want to be a Councillor?

This a personal question you need to answer yourself. People stand for election for many reasons:

- To speak on behalf of the local community and help local people.
- To contribute professional skills to their community
- To shape the future of their local community

Councillors play a vital role in shaping and directing the effectiveness of local services for the benefit of local people. They work with public, private and charitable bodies to improve their community. The role of a Councillor can be varied at the best of times. Your council is the voice and champion of the parish. Being a local councillor can be exciting, intimidating, interesting and even frustrating at times. Above all it is a chance to make a real difference in the place where you live.

What is involved in being a Councillor?

Local councils normally meet monthly and may also hold additional meetings to discuss particular issues. You will need to attend regularly and be prepared to give time to being a councillor.

You will be asked to complete a public register of interests published on the Cornwall Council website, and to abide by the local council's Code of Conduct. You will be asked to keep an open mind and take part in decision making for your area including spending money for local services and facilities. You will also be required to undertake training.

A good starting point is to have a look at the local Council website you are interested in being a part of, in particular look at minutes and agenda. Also attending any meetings as a member of the public. To view the Padstow Town Council website visit [Padstow Town Council | Working In Partnership For The Good Of The Community \(padstow-tc.gov.uk\)](https://www.padstow-tc.gov.uk)

If I am elected....

What would my time commitment be?

- It will depend on the extent of your involvement and what role you choose take in the work of the Council
- Most local Councils meet once or twice a month.
- The average length of a meeting is 2 hours

Can I afford it?

- Councillors are volunteers, but costs for approved travel and subsistence outside of the parish can be reimbursed.

What initial help will be given?

- Each Council is supported by a Clerk who is knowledgeable in Council procedures. The Clerk is always ready to advise new councillors.

Will I receive any form of training?

- Training, seminars and courses for Councillors are organised throughout the year across the county.
- Topics include the basic functions of local councils and the skills needed to make decisions on behalf of your community.

Will I receive any other support?

- Parish and Town Councils are supported by the National Association of Local Councils, through the County Association, who have helped in providing this information. The Association is there to offer legal advice, training and general support to all its members.