

Your Parish Councillors

You can contact individual councillors with comments, suggestions or concerns about their areas of responsibilities shown below:



Peter Lead, Chairman

Planning, Snow Warden (South)

South Woodchester

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Katharine McNealey, Vice Chairman

Strategic Planning, Snow Warden (North)

North Woodchester

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Community Engagement & Public Rights of Way

North Woodchester

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Finance

South Woodchester

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Highways and Road Safety

Woodchester

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Woodchester

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Recreational Sites

Woodchester

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Mandy Rossiter

Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

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About Woodchester Parish Council

Woodchester is a very special place. With an incredible history going back to the neolithic period, and stunning countryside on our doorstep. The area has a thriving art community, wonderful local food and produce, and a community spirit which has proved itself in the recent couple of years.

We like to think that the Parish Council has played a part in all this, engaging with our residents, encouraging local business, supporting our schools, churches and community groups. We work as closely as possible with local authorities to consult on planning and highways issues which affect our residents. We run and support village events, and the annual village litter pick. We have created and supported the very successful Woodchester Mountain Bike Trail and are working on installing a children's playground in the near future.

We have been fortunate to have a number of new families move into the village recently, and the Parish Council recognises the need to keep its community support in harmony with its changing residential profile. To do this we need to know what YOU want from your Parish Council.

Our precept has remained one of the lowest in the District, but we recognise that with economic pressures on local councils we may need to do more for ourselves if we are to keep our village services intact. We promise to communicate our plans as widely as possible, particularly through our village website (www.woodchesterparish.org.uk) and our regular Parish Bulletin in the Woodchester Word.

Please come along to one of our meetings and let us know what your aspirations are for the village. If you can't attend a meeting, contact one of your councillors (see the list on the back of this leaflet), or arrange to meet up with them to discuss your ideas.

It's your Village and your Council. So, get involved and help us to keep Woodchester a thriving and special place to live.

Peter Lead, Chairman, Woodchester Parish Council

What is a Parish Council?

A **Parish Council** is a civil local authority and is the lowest tier of local government. They are elected corporate bodies, have tax raising powers, and are responsible for areas known as civil parishes.

Parish Councils have the power to tax their residents to support their operations and to carry out local projects, and this is done through the council tax system by levying a precept on the council tax paid by the residents of the parish. Although there is no limit to the amount that can be raised, the money can only be raised for a limited number of purposes as defined in the 1894 Act.

A parish council consists of the chairman and not fewer than five elected unpaid **Parish Councillors** who are elected to serve for four years. A quorum of the main council is at least one-third of the members, or three members, whichever is the greater. The administration of the Council is managed by its **Parish Clerk**, a paid employee appointed by the council. Councillors are expected to adhere to the "Nolan principles" of conduct in public life.

A parish council must hold an **Annual Meeting** and at least three other **Council Meetings** in a year – Woodchester Parish Council holds meetings on the first Thursday of every other month, normally in the Village Hall. Every meeting is open to the public, who are encouraged to attend. Public notice of meetings of the council and its committees must be given at least three clear days before and these are displayed on the village notice boards and the parish council website. Procedures for the conduct of meetings are set out in Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The **activities of Parish Councils** fall into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well-being.

Parish Councils are responsible for the provision, maintenance and protection of roadside verges, bus shelters, grit bins, dog bins, litter bins, maintenance of rights of way, guardianship of common land (such as village greens), maintenance of war memorials, public seats, etc. Parish councils have the statutory right to be consulted by the district, county council or unitary authority on all planning applications in their area.