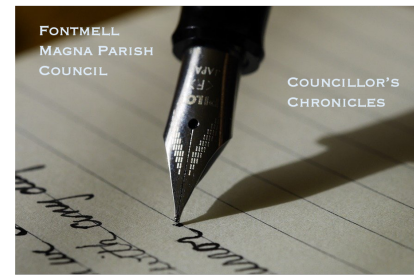


Councillor's Chronicles No.12 – Being a Parish Councillor

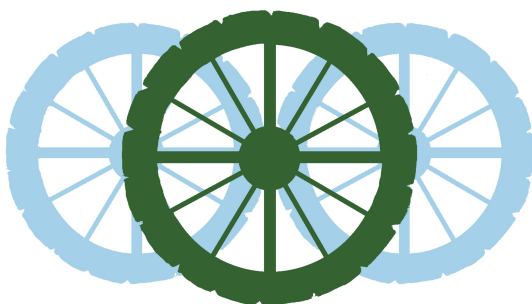
The Parish Council has a large presence in the Gossip Tree thanks to some very active and effective councillors. Being a councillor is voluntary but a role which can have a significant impact on the wellbeing, vibrancy and sustainability of a parish. In Fontmell Magna we are fortunate to have five friendly councillors who come from different walks of life, working together in the interests of the community and its environment. The Clerk, who is not a council member, is professionally trained and the only person involved who receives a (small) salary.



We asked councillors the question how do you view your role and what keeps you motivated?

One answer was about making a difference for the people who live in Fontmell Magna parish. "I found I could tap into the wealth of kindness and expertise in all sorts of areas". A practical example of this is the Community Emergency Response Plan which originated in recognising its importance, aided by the knowledge and commitment of members of the Village Hall Committee together with the involvement of two sterling volunteers who identified what was needed and created a plan to deliver it. Another councillor cited the need for efficient and up to date network and broadband services which prompted them to become active at council level. Most people will be aware of the significant effort that has gone into trying to make the A350 more pedestrian-friendly and pursued by the council members with gusto.

The inherent qualities of this area and the need for community preservation were reasons several councillors gave for their interest in and commitment to the parish. For those who were new to Fontmell Magna parish their involvement began with a friendly welcome and the welcome pack they received shortly after moving in, already making them feel valued by the community.



Fontmell Magna Parish Council

and Chase, which aims to conserve and enhance the local Area of Outstanding Beauty that is the Cranborne Chase, was both an opportunity to learn and to meet people.

There are aspects of parish council work that require what another councillor describes as being passionate about people and relationships. "I

In an altogether different aspect of parish council work one councillor described how they had recently "settled in this beautiful area full of friendly people" and that becoming a member of the council enabled them to become more connected and to help care for the place we live in. For them taking part in the government funded scheme, Chalk

love community and I believe community is one of the most important foundations of relationships. People will always be different from one another no matter if they live next door to each other or across the world so I believe it is important to foster the support and friendship that can be had in all sorts of different ways from people living close by. As a Parish Councillor it gives me the opportunity to get to know my community, make friends and be part of something really positive and enjoyable, striving to make a difference. Being on the Parish Council means I get to listen to others, what they want and feel and help them achieve what is good for all. It makes me very happy and it is a pleasure to be part of a network of people with so many skills and that offers so many opportunities”.

Councillors know their contribution is often valued. As the chair said “The positive comments and feedback we receive shows that we are making a difference and help to make the time and effort of being a councillor very worthwhile.”

If you feel you might like to join the parish council (we have two vacancies at present) please contact Laura on 01747 812449 for an initial chat or send a message to laurakurton.council@gmail.com. Alternatively, come along to a parish council meeting to meet us in person; a really great place and time to have a chat about getting involved and understanding what help is needed.