Standish Parish council: Co-OPtion Opportunity

Are you passionate about our community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the Parish Council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then you may wish to consider applying for co-option to the single vacancy on Standish Parish Council.

# WHAT DO PARISH COUNCILS AND COUNCILLORS DO?

Parish councils and councillors can make a positive difference to the quality of life of their community. They care about where they live and work, and have opportunities to improve the lives and environment of local people.

As a small rural Parish Council, Standish PC doesn’t have any buildings or parks to manage and its budget is small. Nevertheless, these are some of the things that the Parish Council has been able to achieve in recent times, in many cases winning grants to make these achievements possible:

* The Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is well on its way to completion and adoption. Having a draft NDP has already enabled us to engage in constructive discussion with the developers of the site allocated in Stroud’s draft Local Plan at South Standish/North Stonehouse.
* Constructive engagement with the developers of the Standish House site, Standish Gate and Stagholt.
* New bus shelter installed at the bus stop to the east of Horsemarling roundabout. Existing bus shelters tidied up and repainted.
* Plans in progress for a multi-user path between Horsemarling roundabout and Black Bridge and initial feasibility study completed.
* Linking up with local groups working on combating climate change, informing residents about actions they can take and planting three wildflower/biodiversity areas in the parish (more are planned).
* Public access defibrillator installed at the village hall.
* Appointing a local handyperson to keep the village looking tidy, plant bulbs, pick up litter etc.

Parish councillors represent the local community, so you must either live or work in the council area. A councillor’s role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, decision making and reviewing decisions and talking to the community about their needs and what the council is doing. As a Council with six seats, Standish Parish Council currently has one vacancy, to be filled by co-option.

# HOW DO I Express interest in co-option?

**If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Parish Council Chair, Sue Hartley, by emailing** **suehartley@outlook.com** **to arrange an informal chat and to request an application form.**

### **The Parish Council hopes to fill the vacancy at its monthly meeting on**

### **Thursday, 10th june, 2021**.