

Town and Parish Council Elections – 1 May 2025

With elections approaching in May, some current Councillors may choose not to stand again. To ensure a strong Council, it's important to raise awareness and encourage residents to consider running for election.

Why Elections Matter

The Town Council currently uses the General Power of Competence, which allows councils to act freely within the law, without needing specific powers. This authority, granted under the Localism Act 2011, is vital for effective decision-making.

To retain this power, two conditions must be met:

1. Elected Councillors: At least two-thirds of councillors must be elected (not co-opted).
2. Qualified Clerk: The Town Clerk must hold specific qualifications, which our Clerk and RFO already meet.

This means a minimum of 10 candidates must stand for election to ensure **eligibility**.

Raising Awareness

To promote the elections:

- An article has been sent for the next edition of *The Wemian*.
- Posters will be shared on social media and town noticeboards.
- Two drop-in sessions are planned for potential candidates to learn about the role:
 - Thursday 20 February, 7:00 PM
 - Thursday 6 March, 7:00 PM

These informal sessions will provide an opportunity to meet the Clerk and possibly current Councillors and ask questions.

Key Election Dates

- Notice of Election: 10 March
- Nominations Open: 11 March
- Nominations Close: 2 April

The drop-in sessions are scheduled before the nomination period to maximize engagement. No additional costs are anticipated, apart from staff time.

By promoting these opportunities, we hope to encourage residents to help shape the future of our community by standing for election.

Decision Needed

To approve the organisation of two informal drop in sessions as detailed above.