

Your Parish Council.

When telling someone that I am a Parish Councillor, one of the responses often is, "Oh like on the Vicar of Dibley"

Yes,yes,yes,yes.....No.

It is nothing like Dibley. One definition for a Parish Council (PC) is

"A parish council is a civil local authority found in England and is the lowest, or first, tier of local government. They are elected corporate bodies, have variable tax raising powers, and are responsible for areas known as civil parishes."

The PC is not the Parochial Church Council and has no representation from the church. The councillors are elected and are unpaid and do not have a party political agenda. We have one paid member of staff our Parish Clerk, Sarah. The role of the clerk is to keep the official record and advise the PC on matters of procedure and our legal and financial responsibilities. All the agreed minutes of the meetings are a public record and can be viewed on the PC web site www.worthenwithshelvepc.org.uk as are contact details.

The PC considers and comments on many issues that are brought to our attention such as highways maintenance, road safety issues, planning applications, to name a few. On planning issues the PC is a "consulting body" and not a decision maker. All determinations are by a majority vote after a discussion. These representation are then added to the planning portal for consideration by a planning officer.

All the Councillors are keen to raise our public profile and improve involvement of all members of the parish especially our younger residents. Our meetings are open to the public and we welcome all who wish to attend and anyone who wishes to speak is welcome to do so.

If you have any local issues or comments that you would like to raise with the PC please contact Sarah or one of your ward Councillors. If you want to speak at the PC meeting it would be helpful if you could let Sarah know so that it can be added to the agenda.

Come to one of your PC meetings, and experience how your PC works. The PC needs local people your views, opinions and involvement are important.

Thank you for taking time to read this.

Kim Golden.

Chair, Worthen with Shelve Parish Council