

## Update from your local councillors



Grimley Parish Council serves (in no particular order) the communities of Grimley Village, Monkwood Green, Sinton Green, Oakall Green, Birchall Green, Moseley, Worlds End, Dark Lane, Walton Lane, Camp Lane and all inbetween!

**What are parish councils?** There are around 10,000 community, parish and town councils in England and Wales. They are 'government closest to the people' and have a powerful voice to represent residents. Very importantly, these councils can "precept" - raising a sum collected with the council tax each year to improve local facilities and services. They have a number of basic responsibilities in making the lives of communities more comfortable. Essentially these powers fall within three main categories: representing the whole electorate within the parish; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life in the parish. Specific powers include collaboration with community transport schemes and traffic calming measures, local youth projects, tourism activities, leisure facilities, car parks, village greens, public lavatories, litter bins, street lighting, burial grounds, allotments, bus shelters, commons, open spaces, footpaths and bridleways (location/ownership dependant) and participation in crime reduction measures. Parish councils can also comment on planning applications but they do not have the final say. A **parish councillor** is the voluntary, unpaid holder for up to 4 years, of a public office, whose main job is to actively participate in the collective decision-making processes of the council. Any UK citizen aged 18+, who lives or works in the Parish (or within 3 miles) may put themselves forward to be a candidate. When vacancies arise, subject to various statutory notices, these can be filled by co-option - known as a Casual Vacancy. Seeing a community change for the better, as a result of decisions you as a parish councillor have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride. *Source: National Association of Local Councils. Contact the parish clerk if you would like to receive agendas or minutes by email.* **NEXT MEETINGS: (1) 15th May, 7.30pm, Peace Hall - Annual Meeting of Parish Council & formation of new council post 4<sup>th</sup> May elections. (2) 22nd May, 7.30pm, Peace Hall - Annual Parish Meeting, where residents set the agenda and raise topics for discussion without notice.**

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