

# DINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

**Dingley Parish Council** consists of five councillors elected every four years. Kettering Borough Council maintains the Register of Electors.

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Dingley Parish Council's vision is "to ensure Dingley continues to be a vibrant rural village with a strong community spirit, where everybody matters. The aim is for Dingley to be a prosperous, safe and attractive place in which to live and work for the present generation and for generations to come".

The purpose of the Council is to work within its statutory powers to maintain and enhance the village's public amenities, and to help the people of Dingley to improve their quality of life, in accordance with the Council's vision, and to work in partnership with Kettering Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution, and utilise its limited budget to achieve the greatest good for the community.

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles: (a) Proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome); (b) Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers and external consultants; (c) Respect for human rights, and equality and diversity; (d) A presumption in favour of openness; and (e) Clarity of aims and desired outcomes; (f) Transparency (i.e. explaining what options were considered and giving the reasons for the decision).

Councillors agree to follow the Code of Conduct, which is overseen by the Standards Board for England.

The Council's administrative affairs are dealt with by the Parish Clerk who is a part time employee of the Parish Council, and will normally fulfil the role of Responsible Financial Officer.

The Council normally meets in public on the first Wednesday of each month (except August and January) in the Village Hall, Church Lane.

Election will be by ballot of the electorate of the parish.

Where insufficient Councillors have been elected by ballot the Council may nominate at its discretion individuals for co-option to the Council so long as the total number of co-opted members does not exceed the number of elected members.

A person shall cease to be a member of the Council when having notified the Chairman in writing of their wish to resign.

At the Annual General Meeting held in May each year they will elect from their number a Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve for the ensuing twelve months.

The Council operates a freedom of information policy and publishes its agendas and minutes on the parish notice board and website. Any member of the public can inspect Council papers and attend Council or committee meetings. They may also inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.

The Constitution may be altered and additional clauses added by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Council present.

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