

About the Parish Council

The parish council is the lowest tier of government in England and is responsible for Shipton and Hampen Parish. It is an elected corporate body and has tax raising powers (the precept). It represents the community, delivers services to meet local needs, and improves community well being. Parish councils can provide and maintain local services such as open spaces, community safety measures, bus shelters, events, leisure facilities, litter bins, planning, street cleaning, tourism, traffic calming and youth projects. It is funded by the precept, collected with the council tax paid by the residents. Councillors are volunteers and are elected to serve for four years. Councillors are expected to adhere to the "Nolan Principles" of conduct in public life. A Parish Council must hold an annual meeting and at least three other meetings in a year. The minutes of the meeting are taken by the clerk, and are ratified at the next meeting of the council. Minutes are displayed on noticeboards in the village, and also on the internet.

Administration is managed by the Parish Clerk, a paid employee acting in a combined statutory role as secretary and treasurer. The term of office of a parish councillor is four years, and councils are elected *en bloc*, to make a newly constituted council. The timing of the election is linked to that of the district councillor for the ward.

Candidates must be one of the following:

- they are an elector of the parish
- during the whole of the last 12 months they have occupied, either as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the parish.
- their principal or only place of work is in the parish
- they live within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of the parish boundary

Finance

Starting Balance 2015-6	£7216
Income (precept)	£4972
Expenses:	
Dog poo bags	£58.09
Grass cutting sports field	£1,100
Newsletter printing	£91
Grass cutting	£300
GAPTC	£91.17
Mole extermination	£150
Insurance	£212.01
Clerk pay	£440.80
Payroll cost	£10.60
Expenses for printing	£42.28
Water rate	£43.03
Grit bins	£458.40
Water bill	£199.42
Grass cutting	£150
Donation to fencing	£400
Total Expenses (to date)	£3746
Ending Balance	£8442

What has the Parish Council ever done for us?

- Grit bins
- Cardiac defibrillator
- Village maintenance
- Planning decisions
- Sports field support
- Dog Poo Bins
- Regular open meetings
- Newsletter
- Map of houses



Why Be A Parish Councillor?

- To contribute to the community
- To effect change where is change is wanted or needed
- To gain experience of political, social and committee work

