



Cainscross Parish Council
Cashes Green & Ebley
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Your Guide to Becoming a Cainscross Parish Councillor

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[Visit us at our office](#)

We are open Monday to Thursday 9:30am until 1:00pm

Cainscross Parish Council is one of the 52 parish councils that exist within the Stroud district. Cainscross Parish Council provides amenities and services for the area as well as managing and maintaining Victory Park, the QEII Field and Hamwell Leaze.

We provide local information for the district and county councils e.g. comments on planning applications, highlight matters of concern and reports service failures etc.

We are divided into four wards, with each of the 12 Parish Councillors representing one of the four wards, Cainscross, Cashes Green East, Cashes Green West and Ebley.

Cainscross Parish Council needs councillors from all walks of life with a wide range of skills and experience to get involved. It's a great opportunity to help to shape the community and improve life for the people of your community. You will also benefit from support and training, helping you to gain new skills and confidence.

What does a Councillor do?

Councillors are elected to represent the voice of their community as a whole. Their role is to speak on behalf of the people they represent, be aware of and considerate to specific minority needs. Councillors help to resolve and promote local issues and make decisions for the whole of the parish.

Parish Councils also are involved in representation at local government meetings or on local bodies/organisations. Councillors may be asked to serve on certain groups or attend functions on behalf of the Parish Council as well. Councillors act as ambassadors for their community, keeping everyone aware of local needs and concerns and reporting back on District, County and regional changes.

A Parish Councillor signs a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thereby undertakes to observe an ethical Code of Conduct when dealing with matters on behalf of the community.

How much time will it take up?

Expect to spend 2/3 hours a week as a Councillor reading paperwork and attending meetings, so it is a commitment that you should consider carefully. There will be a number of meetings that you will be required to attend which are usually held on Monday evenings. You will have to spend time talking to people in your community and resolving any issues that they may have. You will also need to make time to read papers in preparation for meetings.

What skills do I need?

You do not need any professional or formal qualifications to be a councillor but the knowledge and experience you have picked up through your work and personal life could be useful. The following skills could help you in your role:

- Communication skills – the ability to listen and talk to people, to understand people’s point of view
- Problem solving – you will need to get to the bottom of an issue and to think of different ways to resolve it
- Team working – you will need to work with others in meetings and on committees
- Organisational skills – being able to plan and manage your time and keep appointments
- Ability to engage with your local community – you will have to make yourself available to your community.

Councillors working as a team will need to consider employment issues, budgeting, asset management, project management or grant funding. The Clerks are employed to advise and seek advice on behalf of councillors to assist them in their decisions. Councillors are there to consider the information gathered and make a group decision on all matters. No individual councillor is responsible for any single decision. This is democracy at its best.

Will I get paid?

Councillors are not paid, the role is voluntary. Travel expenses are available for any meeting or training event that is held outside of the parish.

Who can be a councillor?

If you wish to stand as a councillor you must satisfy these requirements:

- A British Citizen, or a citizen of the European Union or Commonwealth
- 18 years or older on the day you become nominated for election
- For the whole of the 12 months prior to nomination you must
 - Have been an elector of the parish and either occupied or owned/rented premises in the parish OR
 - Resided within 4.8kms (3miles) of the boundary of the parish OR
 - Had your principal or only place of work in that area

Who can't be a councillor?

You cannot stand for election if you:

- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
- Have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a prison sentence(whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine
- Work for the council you want to become a councillor for

How do I find out more?

If you would like more information on becoming a councillor please do not hesitate to contact Cainscross Parish Council (contact details on the front of this leaflet) who will be happy to give you all the information you need.