

BECKFORD

PARISH COUNCIL

- Beckford - Grafton - Little Beckford -

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2024



So, apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, the fresh water system, and public health... what has the Parish Council ever done for us?

Alright, so that was the Romans. But you might wonder about what the Parish Council does for Beckford, Grafton, and Little Beckford.

Amongst other things the Parish Council is responsible for:

- Grass and hedge cutting
- Maintaining bus shelters and benches
- The provision of a Parish Lengthsman
- The provision and maintenance of automated speed signs
- Grants and donations
- The maintenance of Little Beckford playground
- Providing and maintaining the defibrillators in all 3 villages
- Responding to planning applications to reflect local concerns
- The conversion and maintenance of the bus shelter and phone box libraries



Departing Councillors

Earlier this year, Nettie Mantle (our then Chairwoman) left the Parish Council for personal reasons. Nettie has served the Parish ably for many years as a representative of Grafton. Her signature policies have been concerned with public health and her enduring legacy is the introduction of the defibrillators: vital, potentially lifesaving pieces of equipment.

David Nicholds will also shortly be

leaving the Parish Council. In addition to his role as Vice Chairman, David has been responsible for keeping abreast of developments concerning the proposed A46 bypass, the adoption of SmartWater security marking, working with various bodies to try and alleviate flooding, and community engagement.

We would like to thank Nettie and David for volunteering their time and their tireless commitment to the community.

Features:

What the Parish Council does

Departures and thanks

Urgent need for more Parish Councillors

Email alert system

Contact:

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Urgent appeal for new Councillors

Beckford Parish Council has seats for 8 elected/co-opted volunteer Councillors from Beckford, Grafton, and Little Beckford. We currently have 5 serving Councillors, and our numbers are about to go down. This will leave us only at half strength. With fewer of us, we're stretched more thinly and less can be done.

The Parish Council needs at least 3 Councillors present in order for a meeting to take place. With only 4 members, there is a serious risk that we might not be able to meet. If more than one of us is on holiday, unwell, or otherwise unable to attend a planned meeting we can't function as a council.



All those things we listed that the Parish Council does... they can't happen without volunteers to fill the seats. Without sufficient local level Councillors we will be forced to either join with another Parish Council, diluting the amount of time and consideration that can be given to resident concerns, or to hand control over to Wychavon – potentially meaning less consideration time, less specific local knowledge, and longer response times.

As a council, our current composition isn't ideal: we have 4 Councillors from Little Beckford, 1 from Beckford, and none from Grafton.

To find out more about becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk or feel free to ask one of those currently serving.

Who Can Be A Councillor?

"We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the community they serve to put themselves forward for election/co-option. You don't need any experience or special qualifications. Your life experience, everyday skills, passion and commitment to people and communities are vital, and it's important that councils reflect the local population.

To be a councillor you need to be:

- British or a citizen of the Commonwealth. You may also be eligible as a citizen of the EU, however the criteria have changed now that the UK has left the EU.
- At least 18 years old.
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked, or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election." (Local Government Association)

To keep up to date with Parish news via the Council, why not subscribe to our email alert system?
<https://beckford-parish-council.org.uk/email-alert-system/>



The members of Beckford Parish Council:

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