

# **RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL**

## **CONSTITUTION**

Ridgmont Parish Council consists of seven councillors elected every four years. Central Bedfordshire Council maintains the Register of Electors.

Ridgmont Parish Council's vision is 'to ensure the village of Ridgmont continues to be vibrant rural village with a strong community spirits, where everybody matters. The aim is for Ridgmont 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 and to help the people of Ridgmont to improve their quality of life, in accordance with the Council's vision, and to work in partnership with Central Bedfordshire 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.

Councillors agree to follow the Code of Conduct.

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 meets in public on the second Thursday of alternate months.

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 Parish Council 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 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.

This Policy was accepted in November 2019