



Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council

Northamptonshire



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Parish Council Vacancies

“Since the 1970’s, Parish Councilors have been elected to serve for 4 years. The last election was in 2015 and so the next ordinary elections should have been in 2019. However, due to the planned abolition of the County, District and Borough Councils to make two new Unitary Councils, the elections were postponed and the Councilors were asked to serve another year. Melvyn Wooding, of Caldecott, had served 16 years at that point and decided to stand down. With the Covid-19 outbreak, the ordinary elections have been postponed again, meaning the Councilors have been asked to serve a 6 year term (this has only happened once before, and that was during WW1). Understandably, two more of our Councilors, Ray Daniells and James Pentelow, have decided to stand down.

Both Ray and James joined the Council in 2015. Ray served two years as Vice-Chair and the last three as Chair, as well as being the Community Speed Watch coordinator and maintaining the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). James has been the Council’s Independent Financial Verifier and Tree Warden since 2015, and, until it was moved into the grass cutting contract, he voluntarily cut the grass around the 305th BG memorial. Both Ray and James were Council appointed Trustees, of the Foulger Trust and Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Trusty respectively. The Council thanks Ray and James for their service to the parish.

Both vacant seats will now be advertised as required by law. If the electorate calls for an election, then a bye-election will be held, else the seats will be filled by co-option. But there is a twist – the same legislation that postponed the ordinary elections until 2021, also postpones any bye-elections. So if the electorate calls for an election, the seats will simply remain vacant to the next ordinary elections on 6th May 2021. So anyone wishing to serve on the Council now should not demand an election, but instead wait for the Council to be able to fill the seats by co-option.”