

## Bickleigh Parish Councillor Role & Responsibilities

Bickleigh Parish is a relatively small yet diverse parish, covering small businesses, agricultural land and residential properties, a pub and even a castle. Sprawling across a small section of the River Exe, taking in Bickleigh Bridge with residents on both sides of the A396 and on the A3072 towards Crediton. The 'centre' of the village includes a Church of England church, a village hall, a primary school and Joan's Orchard, but others may see the infamous bridge, pub and recreation ground with the new community garden as the heart - as already said we are small and diverse.

Bickleigh Parish Council (BPC) consists of 5 voluntary and elected councillors plus one paid clerk. The clerk supports the councillors with admin, and is also trained to advise and signpost the councillors to ensure they follow due diligence and keep on track with tasks. The council meets 6 times a year, one of those being the Annual meeting in May.

The following section is adapted from NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and covers the work of BPC:

- *BPC works to support the local community and community organisations - this includes liaising with the school, village hall, church, benevolent fund charity, Joan's Orchard, recreation ground and individuals who make contact raising issues and/or concerns.*
- *Supporting local community projects, for example, the new community garden.*
- *Liaising with wider authorities such as Mid Devon District Council (MDDC), DCC (Devon County Council), highways, planning and so on.*

*Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must live or work in the parish or town council area. Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience as you can make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives. A councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, making decisions, and talking to the community about their needs and what the council is doing.*

*A councillor's role has three main areas:*

- *Decision-making — Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered, and what policies should be implemented by attending meetings and committees.*
- *Monitoring — Councillors ensure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by monitoring how well things work.*
- *Getting involved locally — As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities often depend on what a given councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.*

(<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/becoming-a-councillor/what-parish-and-town-councils-and-councillors-do.html>: May 2026)

The following page shows the map and a link to the MDDC website with more information.

If you are interested in joining us, please email: [clerk@bickleighparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bickleighparish.gov.uk)



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