

## DIRECT ELECTION TO THE SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

Candidates should complete the nomination form by 8 November 2019 and send it to NALC at [nalccommittees@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:nalccommittees@nalc.gov.uk).

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Title              | Miss   |
| First name         | Josephine                                    |
| Surname            | Parish                                       |
| Home address       |  |
| Contact number     |  |
| Email address      |  |
| County association | Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils |
| Council name       | Corfe Castle Parish Council                  |
| Precept            | £30,262.00                                   |
| Electorate         | 1108   |

Explain why you are standing for this position (250 words max)

I believe there is real potential for 'parish power'; but there needs to be genuine support for those parishes who lack capacity. Many smaller councils are at a disadvantage in terms of their inability to participate in debate about shared, wider issues. In my view alternative methods need to be developed to enable smaller parishes to join conversations that could affect better outcomes for their communities.

The thriving parish councils we see through NALC are inspirational, demonstrating achievable, positive outcomes that similar active parish councils could aim to bring to their communities; and this is excellent, but this 'parish power' needs to be widespread.

An important challenge I wish to be addressed is to connect with the struggling parish councils, especially those who are not engaged with their county association or neighbouring parishes; to



understand their challenges and empower them to affect positive change.

In many cases, there are huge benefits to be gained by working together in clusters across neighbouring parish and town councils; enabling greater connectivity and improved access to information and services for smaller parish councils who would have been formerly struggling to achieve the bare minimum in isolation.

Most urgent is the issue of Climate Emergency. It is crucial that ALL councils, including the smaller struggling councils, take urgent action to mitigate against Climate Emergency. It is therefore crucial that methods of empowering these harder to reach parish councils are developed immediately.

Please outline three key achievements, skills or experiences that are relevant to the position applied for (250 words max each)

**PREVIOUSLY WORKED AS CLERK:** Although my experience of local government only commenced in 2016 as clerk to a very small parish council, I immersed myself into my role with great enthusiasm; I attended all the available training; it was a 6 month wait for new clerk training, so I mirrored an experienced clerk in a nearby parish and attended various neighbouring parish, town and district council meetings, keen to learn good practice; I attended seminars and conferences facilitated by the Rural Services Network, South West Councils, SLCC, PDC and DAPTC; I helped develop a good network of clerks and councillors who were keen to share expertise (good-practice, model documents and inform each other of important consultations) and work together in the face of shared concerns; it was easy to form an informal cluster of 5 neighbouring parish and town councils in the face of Local Government Reform as connections had already been made; the group continues to meet quarterly working together and sharing common concerns and is proving to be invaluable.

**PARISH COUNCILLOR:** As a lead member of our new Environment Working Group, we have made much progress since June when we declared; agreed a Terms of Reference, switched electricity company to a green Energy Co, held a public meeting with a presentation by Low Carbon Dorset for residents and local businesses to empower them to reduce their carbon footprint, and are planning a public meeting on enhancing Biodiversity in our community with a presentation from the National Trust Ecology team. Our group is also looking into installing a water fountain, car charging points and is working on our action plan.

In addition, and we are creating an informal network of like-minded parish and town councils who are sharing ideas and common goals; currently we are researching community-led energy generation.

Our parish council is a competent council with a qualified clerk. It has taken on additional services; negotiated taking on the public toilets along with the revenue-earning residents' car park; it



finances the Youth Club, subsidises the Sports Trust; facilitated the setting up of the Community Land Trust;

Our local area branch of DAPTC has highlighted the need to connect with the struggling parishes and is working on ways to achieve this.

OTHER TRANSFERABLE EXPERIENCE: I have a law degree and prior to raising a family, I worked for an ITV documentary production company for 3 years, working directly to the Controller of Factual Programmes and the Finance Manager. Over the past 17 years I have been running our family beach café.

I was a founding member and Secretary of the Corfe Castle Community Land Trust. My personal aim was two-fold to set up a good system of Governance and to ensure that the aim was to provide genuinely affordable housing instead of the usual unaffordable affordable housing. I am no longer a board member but am pleased to say a site has been identified and good progress is being made to build 14 genuinely affordable homes.

#### Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information given on this form is correct and can be copied and distributed to other NALC members.

Signature

*M. Parry*

Date

*7<sup>th</sup> November 2019*

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Countersigned on behalf of Corfe Castle Parish Council