**Being a Councillor**

**What is a councillor?**

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward or - parish – in Maiden Bradley it is the entire parish. They are generally elected by the public every four years, but there is a Co-option space available on the Parish Council at the moment as no Election has been called for in the parish.

**What do councillors do?**

Councillors have three main components to their work.

***1.******Decision making***- Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.

***2.******Monitoring***- Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

***3.******Getting involved locally***- As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:

Going to meetings of local organisations such as the Rural Police Neighbourhood Tasking Group

Going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community (The Warminster Area Board)

Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

**How much time does it take up?**

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about an hour a week. Obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this - and some less, but in the main, being a, parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community, and helping to make it a better place to live and work.