

## **Bourton Parish Council Elections – 4 May**

### **Statement from Fiona Ryan**

Parish Council Election:

I would welcome the opportunity to join the Parish Council because since moving to Bourton 8 years ago and living in a village for the first time in my life, I have loved being part of such a friendly community. I would enjoy doing what I can to help our village continue to thrive and become an even more welcoming and inclusive place for long term residents and newcomers. I work as a GP and have two teenage children, and Bourton has been such a happy and safe place for us to live as a family and for the children to grow up.

Most of you will know me as the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee - a team of seven villagers (with room for more!) working to keep the hall going as a venue for exercise classes, leisure activities and village events such as our quizzes, Christmas Concerts and other functions. I have learned a huge amount helping to run the village hall (particularly recently about fund-raising and grant applications!). I also co-ordinated the village Covid support network (of which starting the village WhatsApp group was an important part).

If elected to the Parish Council, I will be eager to build on this experience and support the ongoing sterling work that the Parish Council has always done regarding planning matters, highways issues and care of the village. I would also love to see more attendance and engagement of interested villagers at Parish Council meetings, and am very much in favour of using additional means of communication to the traditional ones of the Parish noticeboard and the excellent village website. The recent updates from the Parish Council via the WhatsApp group have been very welcome and I would encourage continuation and development of this. I will be readily contactable and approachable for any concerns or issues to be raised to the Parish Council and in seeking the opinions of villagers regarding options for discretionary expenditure.

In recent years, vacancies on the Parish Council have been filled by 'co-option' - whereby the remaining councillors jointly appoint another member, so I see the holding of an election where villagers can make a choice as a good thing. The villagers fund the Parish Council to look after village matters through payments made as part of their Council Tax, so it seems very reasonable for the Councillors to be democratically elected where there is an opportunity for this.

Thank you!  
Fiona Ryan

*There are six candidates standing for five council positions:*

*Carolyn Francis  
Simon French  
Fiona Ryan  
Andy Knapp  
Nial Ledingham  
David Swann*