

Parish polls

They arise from the Parish and Community Meetings (Polls) Rules 1987 which apply where a poll consequent on a Parish Meeting is required to be taken

Parish Polls provide an opportunity for local electors to express an opinion on a specific subject either by giving an answer to a question or an appointment to any office.

At the Parish Meeting either 10 electors or one third of electors present and voting, whichever is less, may demand a Poll on a question or the appointment to an Office. However, the result of the poll is not binding on the parish.

The request for a Poll cannot be subject to a vote at the meeting. If a Poll is demanded on a question, the wording of the question can be voted upon. The motion proposed at the Parish meeting is reproduced as the question on the ballot paper. It is therefore important for the original motion to be phrased in such a way as to enable a YES/NO response to be given.

The cost of a Parish poll has to be met entirely by the Parish Council and it cannot be combined with any other type of election.

The Chairman of the meeting must notify the Returning Officer and give such particulars as will enable him to give notice of the poll

How will I know when a Poll is being held?

A notice will be displayed in the parish area not less than five days before the day of the Poll.

Will I receive a poll card?

No. there is no provision in the regulations for the issue of poll cards.

What hours are the polling stations open for voting?

The polls are open from 4:00pm until 9:00pm on the day fixed by the Returning Officer between the 14th and 25th day (inclusive) after the poll was demanded.

If I am away on the day of the poll, can I have a postal or proxy vote?

No. There is no provision in the regulations for the issue of postal votes or the appointment of proxies. All electors wishing to vote must attend the polling station to vote in person.

How will I know what I am being asked to vote on?

You will be given a ballot paper which will have a question printed on it. You will be asked to vote "yes" or "no" by placing a cross (**X**) in the box underneath the answer you want to give.

What happens after a Poll?

The Poll is only to gain an opinion. The result is by no means legally binding on the Parish or Town Council.