

## **ELECTIONS for Cotswold District Council and Bibury Parish Council to take place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.****

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY? YES – THEN THINK ABOUT BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR!**

Please feel free to contact me for further information – ideally with a contact number so I can get back to you promptly. [clerk@biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Bibury Parish Council Elections – summary for those wishing to stand:

- Eligibility – You should check you are eligible\*
- Nomination packs will be available to download from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Nominations to be hand delivered (during office hours) to The Election Officer at Cotswold District Council from Monday 20 March through to the **deadline of 4pm on Tuesday 4 April**
- Publication of those standing – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
If there are 7 candidates or less – then the Election will be “Uncontested” and the new Council will be official from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (all current Members stay in office until the 8th May 2023)
- **Contested Election will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023** if there are more than 7 candidates.
- **Bibury Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** to be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 commencing at 6.30pm. The first order of business will be to ‘Elect a Chairman’.
- All Councillors will be requested to sign an Acceptance of Office – to be witnessed and signed by The Clerk.
- All Councillors will be required to complete a Declarations of Interest form to be returned to Cotswold District Council within 28 days of taking office. The Election Officer will also require other forms to be completed with regards to any costs incurred by the candidates (as part of the election process).

Link to Election toolkit

<https://www.biburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/elections-toolkit-300123-14.pdf?v=1675164246>

Link to Elections Information from Cotswold District Council

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/current-and-future-elections/>

### **\*Eligibility**

**You are 18 or over** on the day you submit your nomination paper and are a **British, Commonwealth or European Union Citizen** and **at least one of the following:**

- i) a registered local government elector in the electoral area you are wanting to stand as a

candidate

ii) have resided in the area for the whole 12 months preceding the day of nominations, or

iii) work in the electoral area in which you want to stand and have for at least the past 12 months

iv) own property in the electoral area you are wanting to stand and have for at least the past 12 months

v) for all of the previous 12 months you have lived in the Parish/Town or within 3 miles of the boundary

**A person is disqualified from being elected or being a Councillor if:**

i) You work for Bibury Parish Council

ii) You are subject to bankruptcy restrictions or interim orders

iii) Within five years of the election date you have been convicted of any offence and sentenced to a

term imprisonment of at least three months (suspended or not) without the option of a fine

iv) You have been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices, or are responsible for incurring unlawful

expenditure

v) You are subject to the notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, and the ordinary period allowed for making an appeal or application in respect of the order or notification has passed.

## **VOTER ID for Elections**

From May 2023 individuals who wish to vote in person, including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another individual, will be required to produce an accepted form of photographic ID to prove their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper. This is a national change implemented by the Government as part of the Elections Act 2022 which councils are required to follow when running elections.

Those voting in person must bring a suitable form of photographic ID to their polling station. The most commonly used IDs include:

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- Photographic driver's licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (including provisional)
- European Economic Area (EEA) photographic ID Card
- UK Biometric Residence Permit
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (PASS card)
- A Blue Badge

- A concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government or local authority

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Voters who do not produce valid identification or a Voter Authority Certificate (more information below), will not be allowed to vote.

Only original documents will be accepted; scanned images or copies will not be accepted.

### **Out of date photo ID**

You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.

The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

### **How to apply for ID if you do not have one of the accepted forms of ID**

If you do not have one of the accepted forms of photo ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, which can be obtained free of charge from the Council. Anyone applying must already be on the electoral register.

The Voter Authority Certificate is a document containing an elector's name and photograph that can be used as ID to vote in an election. Voter Authority Certificates do not have an expiration date and can be used in future elections so worth keeping hold of if you apply for one.

You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online at <https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/>

If you can't complete the online application form you can request a paper form instead or apply in person at the Cotswold District Council offices. For more information please call us on 01285 623002 or email [elections@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:elections@cotswold.gov.uk).

**The deadline for applying for a Voter Authority Certificate for elections in May 2023 is 5pm Tuesday 25 April 2023.**

You can find out more about Voter Authority Certificates here: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate>

### **Does this affect postal voting?**

Postal voters already provide signature and date of birth identifiers and will not be affected by these changes.

If you wish to vote by post in future elections including the 4 May 2023 elections, you can apply by downloading an application form [here](#).

The deadline for registering for a postal vote is 5pm Tuesday 18 April 2023.

### **Proxy voting**

If you choose to [vote by proxy](#) then the person who you have appointed to vote on your behalf will have to take their own valid identification to be issued with a ballot paper.

The deadline for registering for a proxy vote is 5pm Tuesday 25 April 2023.