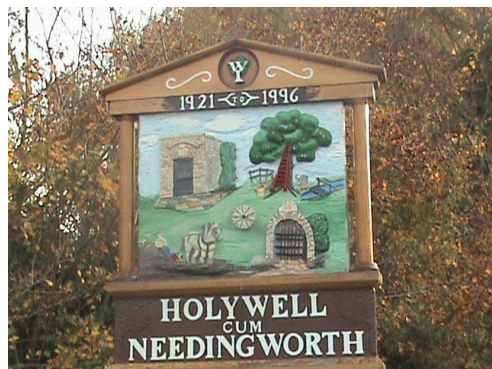


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**Working together for increased
Democracy**

**Cambridge and Peterborough Association
of Local Councils**

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Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council Elections

**WHAT IS A TOWN,
PARISH OR
VILLAGE COUNCIL?**

USE YOUR VOTE

WHAT IS A TOWN, PARISH OR VILLAGE COUNCIL?

It exists to serve the people of the Parish by:

- Providing services appropriate to their needs and expectations where it is legally empowered.
- Representing people without discrimination and involving them in decisions where necessary.
- Working in partnership with voluntary agencies, the private sector, other local authorities and public bodies.
- Contributing to the economic prosperity of the area.
- Keeping the parish a place where people want to live, work and enjoy themselves.

POWERS & DUTIES

The parish, town or village council acts within the framework of legislation conferred on it by Parliament. The functions of the council are mainly discretionary, that is they amount to powers as opposed to duties.

Parish councils derive their powers from a number of sources but in general terms the important source is the Local Government Act of 1972 and subsequent amendments and enhancements.

Parish, town & village councils can delegate power to the clerk or a committee but never to individual councillors or chairmen.

Examples of Powers and Duties

Community Centres	Power to provide and equip community buildings	Local Government Act 1972, s.133
	Power to provide buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
Crime Prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31
Public Conveniences	Power to provide	Public Health Act 1936, s.87
Allotments	Power to provide allotments Duty to consider providing allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied	Smallholdings & Allotments Act 1908, s.23
Village Greens	Power to maintain, to make bylaws for and to prosecute for interference with village greens	Open Spaces Act 1906, s 15 Inclosure Act 1857, s 12, Commons Act 1876, s 29
Lighting	Power to light roads and public places	Parish Councils Act 1957. s Highways Act