

## **SIX EXCUSES FOR NOT JOINING THE PARISH COUNCIL**

1. "I'm too young."  
***If you are eighteen (the age limit dropped from 21 to 18 way back in 2007) you are old enough***
2. "I'm too busy, and couldn't commit to attending every single meeting".  
***Meetings are rarely more frequent than one evening a month, and missing the occasional one is acceptable. Most meetings only take a couple of hours.***
3. "I haven't lived here very long and don't know the area well."  
***If you are a Commonwealth/EU citizen and have lived or worked in the parish for a year or already have your name on the electoral roll, you are eligible..... Your views as an 'incomer' should be welcomed, as you will probably see things more objectively.***
4. "Our parish council is full of old fogeys."  
***Join up and change it then.***
5. "I'm too lazy, and not interested in my community."  
***An excellent reason for not joining.***
6. "I prefer to let others do the work, and then criticize from the sidelines afterwards".  
***Also a valid reason for not joining, but do bear in mind, that expounding your views in the pub, rather than the council chamber, will not change a thing in your parish – and if you can't be bothered, does that mean it's fair game to criticize those who do make the effort?***