

Our Groups and Committees

As a Parish Council we have several committees/groups:

- A Finance Committee
- A Staffing Committee
- An Environment Group

These groups/committees meet on an ad hoc basis and have lay members of the community who can offer expertise to the Council. If you are able to assist any of our groups or committees by volunteering some time to help our community please contact our Clerk. We are always particularly keen to attract volunteers for our Environment Group.

How do I Become a Councillor?

If you are interested in becoming a councillor, elections are held every four years in May. Complete a simple form which sets out your eligibility and submit it to Stafford Borough Council Elections Office. If no more than 10 people apply, you will be automatically confirmed, otherwise a contested vote must be held.

We are always looking for new ideas to help promote the parish and improve the environment. Our Council expertise currently includes teaching, nursing, care services, policing, business, banking, engineering and environment. If you are over 18 years of age, you are welcome to apply to join us. Contact our Clerk for more information including when the next election is due.

Local Contacts

Berkswich Parish Council Clerk:

Email: clerk@berkswich-pc.gov.uk

Phone: 07871 645232

Website: berkswich-pc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council

For Highways, Education, Social Care, Libraries, etc.

Email: contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 111 8000

Website: staffordshire.gov.uk

Stafford Borough Council

For Planning Applications, Council Tax, Streetscene Street Cleansing, waste and bin collections, etc.

Email: info@staffordbc.gov.uk

Phone: 01785 619000

Website: staffordbc.gov.uk

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**Berkswich Parish
Council**



Welcome to Berkswich Parish Council

Who are we?

Berkswich Parish Council covers the villages of Walton on the Hill and Milford.

We have 10 Parish Council seats and information on the current councillors can be found on our website at berkswich-pc.gov.uk. The QR code on the back page will also take you to our website.

The Council meet on the first Tuesday of every month (except January and August) at 7.30 pm at Walton (Berkswich) Village Hall. We have one employee, the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer who works for 12 hours per week. Their role is to advise on law matters, summon and keep minutes of its meetings and manage the finances, correspondence and administration of the Council. All decisions of the Council are made at



Volunteers working at Walton Coppice

Council meetings. Agendas and minutes can be found on our website and members of the public are welcome to attend and can raise issues during the Public Session at the start of the meeting. Our finances are internally and externally audited annually.

What do we do?

Local residents and businesses often contact us to raise issues they would like us to help with. Where possible we take action to get the issues rectified; where we do not have powers to do anything about those issues we lobby Staffordshire County Council and our County Councillor, Stafford Borough Council and our Borough Councillor, Stafford Borough Police, etc.

We own and manage:

- Hollybush Playing Fields, next to Berkswich Primary School on Brocton Lane,



Hollybush Playing Fields—Play Area

- including the play area;
- Walton Coppice, a large strip of land behind Bluebell Hollow which is managed for wildlife conservation;

- Hollybush Coppice next to Hollybush Playing Fields which is used by Berkswich Primary School for environmental education;
- the War Memorial at Weeping Cross;
- a memorial bench on The Village;
- the Walton on the Hill Village Pump;
- an analemmatic sundial on Cannock Chase;
- noticeboards around the parish; and
- a Phone Box Book Exchange on Milford Road, Walton on the Hill.



Telephone Box
Book Exchange

Locally we manage:

- a grounds maintenance service to keep grass verges, street signs and public footpaths around the parish in good order;
- trip rails installed in places where grass is damaged by parking;
- flower beds planted to protect environmentally sensitive areas and to enhance the appearance of the parish.

Berkswich Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications within the parish. A response is agreed by the Council and is submitted by the Clerk to Stafford Borough Council Planning Department.

Councillors have a stall at the Berkswich Parish Fete and other local events wherever possible to try to engage with local residents and gain their insight into the work we do.

Each year the Council offers small grants to support community projects. In the past these have included contributions towards defibrillators, environmental projects, etc.

The Council produces three newsletters a year which are published on our website. To receive an email notification when a newsletter is published please email clerk@berkswich-pc.gov.uk. Printed copies can be delivered within the parish if requested.

How are we funded?

Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, working on behalf of their community. Although legal regulations allow for Councillors to receive allowances, Berkswich Parish only provide the Chair with a small budget for things like the purchase of wreaths for the annual Remembrance Sunday services.



Weeping Cross War
Memorial

A precept collected as part of Council Tax by Stafford Borough Council pays for grounds and other maintenance, staffing costs for the Clerk and some project work.

We have also been successful in attracting financial grants from other agencies, to assist with the improvement of the local environment. All project and contract work is undertaken in strict compliance with Local Government regulations, for which the Clerk has oversight.