

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL



POLICY

PARISH POLLS

BACKGROUND

Parish polls arise from provisions contained in Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and occur as a result of a parish or community meeting. The object of a poll is to check that an opinion expressed by a parish meeting is that of the majority of the electors. A poll may be held either in respect of a question or of an appointment to an office.

Only a parish meeting can call for a Parish Poll

- A vote takes place at this meeting and if 10 electors or a third of electors present demand a poll (whichever is less) a poll shall be held
- Other people can attend a meeting to call for a Parish Poll but only electors for the parish can speak and vote on a question
- The Chairman should ensure that any question put for a poll should have a YES or NO answer
- Once the wording of the question has been agreed at the meeting it cannot be changed even if on reflection it doesn't make sense
- The County Council should receive a written request for a poll from the Clerk/Chairman of the meeting; following the meeting
- The poll is held between 14 and 25 days from the poll being called
- The County Council will publish a Notice of Poll
- The hours of the poll are 4pm to 9pm at the normal polling station for that village
- There are no poll cards, postal or proxy votes
- The Count will be done immediately after the poll
- The cost of the poll is borne by the Parish
- Publicity – very much down to those putting forward the question

POLICY

The outcome of the poll is no more and no less than an expression of the views of the electorate of the parish who have voted in the poll. It is not binding and Ferryhill Town Council does not support the calling of Parish Polls on any question as it considers such Polls do not represent value for money for local taxpayers.

The result of the poll is not binding on the Town Council and Ferryhill Town Council will not implement the result of Parish Polls regardless of the topic/outcome.