



Elections on Thursday 7 May 2015

Notes:

This document is designed to be used and read on-line, and will be updated at several points, in particular in the period between March 2015 and the date of the elections.

1. Click on the links in the following list to go straight to the subject shown. Alternatively, use the “Bookmarks” Tab to help you navigate the document; and
2. If you do print this, it is suggested that you periodically check the website for an updated version: go to the [Elections](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) page [www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections] and follow the links to “Future Elections”.

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Parliamentary Election

On Thursday 7 May 2015 there will be a parliamentary general election. The whole of the district of West Oxfordshire makes up the Witney Constituency, which returns a single member of parliament.

West Oxfordshire District Council Elections

On Thursday 7 May 2015 there will be elections for 17 seats on the West Oxfordshire District Council.

These will be for one seat in each of the following Wards (areas), **except** the Hailey, Minster Lovell and Leaffield Ward, where there will be **two** available seats:

Alvescot and Filkins	Hailey, Minster Lovell and Leaffield
Bampton and Clanfield	Kingham, Rollright and Enstone
Carterton North East	Stonesfield and Tackley
Carterton North West	Witney Central
Carterton South	Witney East
Charlbury and Finstock	Witney North
Chipping Norton	Witney South
Eynsham and Cassington	Witney West

The reason there are two seats available in Hailey, Minster Lovell and Leaffield is because of the resignation of a councillor. This means that the person elected with the most votes in that Ward will serve a four year term of office, and the candidate who finishes second will serve until May 2016.

For details of current members of the District Council please see [the Council's website](#).

Parish and Town Council Elections

Elections for 18 Parish/Town Councils are also scheduled for Thursday 7 May 2015, as follows (number of seats shown in brackets):

Alvescot (5)	Finstock (6)
Black Bourton (5)	Hailey (7)
Carterton (16), comprising:	Langford (5)
Gateway Ward (2)	Leaffield (7)
Milestone Ward (3)	Ramsden (5)
Rock Farm Ward (3)	Stonesfield (8)
Shillbrook Ward (3)	Swerford (5)
Upavon Ward (5)	Witney (17), comprising:
Chipping Norton (16)	Burwell Ward (1)
Clanfield (7)	Central Ward (3)
Combe (6)	East Ward (4)
Crawley (5)	North Ward (3)
Enstone (10)	South Ward (3)
Eynsham (15)	West Ward (3)
Filkins and Broughton Poggs (6)	

Oxfordshire County Council Election

There will also be an election to fill a vacancy on the Oxfordshire County Council for the Witney West and Bampton Electoral Division.

Acting Returning Officer and Returning Officer

The Acting Returning Officer for the Parliamentary election is Keith Butler, who is based at the District Council offices at Woodgreen, Witney. He is also the Returning Officer for the administration of the District and Parish/Town Council elections, and the Deputy Returning Officer for the Oxfordshire County Council election. See [below](#) for contact information.

Candidates' Nominated for Election – Parliamentary Election

The period for nominating candidates for all the elections closed at 4 pm on Thursday 9 April 2015.

There will be 12 candidates contesting the parliamentary seat for the Witney Constituency. The list is available from the WODC website: go to the [Elections](#) page and follow the links to “Future Elections”.

Candidates' Nominated for Election – District, County and Town/Parish Council Elections

A total of 81 candidates have been nominated for the 17 **District Council** seats, comprising 17 Conservatives; 16 Green Party; 17 Labour/Labour and Co-operative Party; 17 Liberal Democrats; and 14 UKIP.

For the single **County Council** seat there were five nominations, one each from Conservative, Green Party, Labour, Liberal Democrats and UKIP.

For **Town and Parish Council** elections, there were a total of 155 nominations for the 151 available seats, as follows:

Parish/Town	No of seats and Nominations		Parish/Town	No of seats and Nominations	
	Seats	Noms		Seats	Noms
Alvescot	5	5	Finstock	6	6
Black Bourton	5	5	Hailey	7	7
Carterton	(16)		Langford	5	4
Gateway Ward	2	2	Leaffield	7	5
Upavon Ward	5	5	Ramsden	5	5
Milestone Ward	3	5	Stonesfield	8	6
Rock Farm Ward	3	3	Swerford	5	4
Shillbrook Ward	3	3	Witney	(17)	
Chipping Norton	16	19	Burwell Ward	1	2
Clanfield	7	6	Central Ward	3	6
Combe	6	5	East Ward	4	9
Crawley	5	4	North Ward	3	6
Enstone	10	7	South Ward	3	6
Eynsham	15	11	West Ward	3	5
Filkins and Broughton Poggs	6	4			

Therefore, the contested elections were those for Carterton Town Council (Milestone Ward); Chipping Norton Town Council; and all six Wards of the Witney Town Council. **However, please note that because of the death of a candidate, the poll for the South Ward of Witney Town Council has been CANCELLED. That will now take place on Thursday 25 June 2015.**

The counts will take place on Friday 8 May and when they have been concluded the results will be available on the WODC website: www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections then follow the links to the results page.

In the Towns/Parishes where there are insufficient candidates for a poll, the persons nominated have been declared elected following an uncontested election, and in those where the number elected uncontested is fewer than the number of seats on the Council, the Town/Parish Council will co-opt to fill the remaining vacancy or vacancies.

For the details of those nominated for both District and Town/Parish elections, please see the [Elections](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) page of the website (www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) then follow the links to the future elections page).

Guidance for Candidates and Agents at the Parliamentary Election

Information and guidance prepared nationally by the Electoral Commission is available from the [Commission's website](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england-and-wales) (www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england-and-wales) and has also been published on the [Elections](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) page of the WODC website.

Guidance for Candidates and Agents at the District, County and Town/Parish Council Elections

Guidance produced by the Returning Officer and supplied to prospective candidates is available to download from the [Elections](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) page of the website (www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections).

Information and guidance prepared nationally by the Electoral Commission is available from the [Commission's website](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england-and-wales) (www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england-and-wales) and has also been published on the [Elections](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) page of the WODC website.

Count and Result - Parliamentary Election

The count will take place immediately after the close of the poll. The result will be available on the [Election Results](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) page of this website as soon as it is known (www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections).

Counts and Results – District, County and Town/Parish Council Elections

District and Parish election ballot papers will be counted during Friday 8 May 2015. More information on this will be provided in due course.

The results will be available on the [Election Results](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections) page of this website as soon as all are known (www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections).

Polling Hours and Polling Stations

Polling hours on Thursday 7 May 2015 will be from 7 am until 10 pm.

Information about the location of polling stations is available on the District Council website.

Official Poll Cards

Official Poll Cards, stating the hours of the poll and the details of the polling station were posted on Wednesday 1 April 2015 for all persons registered at that date. For those applying to be registered who came on to the register after that date, further batches of poll cards were sent on 10, 22 and 29 April.

Poll Cards for Postal Voters

Persons registered to vote by post, do not receive an "Official Poll Card". However, a poll card for postal voters will be sent to them to confirm that they are registered to receive a postal ballot pack and giving other information, including how to change or cancel the arrangement. These were

posted on Wednesday 1 April 2015 to all on the postal voting lists as at 18 March. For later applicants, the postal poll card was sent on subsequent dates.

Postal and Proxy Voting: Elections on Thursday 7 May 2015

Please note that the deadline for applying to vote by post was **5 pm** on Tuesday 21 April 2015, and for proxy voting was 5 pm on Tuesday 28 April 2015, and have therefore passed.

After **5 pm** on **Tuesday 28 April 2015**, and until 5 pm on polling day, there is provision for the appointment of a proxy because of unforeseen illness/physical incapacity or on grounds of occupation, service or employment. Any such applications (i) can be allowed only if the circumstances which lead to the application occurred after that date and time; and (ii) usually have to be attested (supported) by a specified person. Further guidance is obtainable from the elections office.

Posting of Postal Votes to Voters

Postal ballot papers for Thursday 7 May 2015 were posted on Wednesday 22 April 2015 to those voters who had an arrangement in place at 16 March. Postal ballot papers for voters who applied for their postal vote after that date were sent on Friday 24 April 2015, and a final very small batch for those who came on to the voting register at the latest possible time was posted on 29 April.

Registering to Vote

For persons not included in the register of electors, applications for registration needed to be received by no later than **Monday 20 April 2015** in order to be able to vote on Thursday 7 May 2015. **The period for applying to register has therefore passed.**

If you are not registered, and therefore need to do so for the future, the easiest and quickest way to apply is via www.gov.uk/register-to-vote - you will need your national insurance number as part of the application process. People who do not have internet access may [contact electoral services](#) for an application form.

If you are uncertain whether you are registered, please use the specific "Check you are registered to vote" button available at www.westoxon.gov.uk/elections (which opens a contact form on the Council's website) or telephone 01993 861410.

Further Information/Contact Us

For further information on elections in 2015, you may [contact electoral services](#) (this opens a contact form on the Council's website) or telephone during office hours via 01993 861410 or write to The Elections Office, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon, OX28 1NB. The email address is elections@westoxon.gov.uk

For detailed general information on all aspects of electoral matters, visit the website of the [Electoral Commission](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk). (www.electoralcommission.org.uk). The Commission has also established an additional website specific to registering to vote and voter queries about forthcoming elections. This site is at <http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk>

WODC Electoral Services
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