**Parish Council Election Process**

With regard to the representation of Parish Councils, it is agreed that the Quantock Hills JAC has four Parish Councils members. Parishes that lie within or abut the Quantock Hills AONB Boundary (see table 1) will be eligible to put forward a member for election. It is hoped that parishes from both Districts will be represented.

(a) Sedgemoor District Council (7 parishes)

(b) Somerset West and Taunton Council (14 parishes)

The eligible parishes within each of these local authority areas are listed in Table 1 below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 1: Parish and Town Councils whose boundaries that lie wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Quantock Hills AONB** | | |
| **Sedgemoor District Council** | **Somerset West and Taunton Council** | |
| Broomfield | Bishops Lydeard & Cothelstone | Bicknoller |
| Enmore | Combe Florey | Crowcombe |
| Goathurst | Kingston St Mary | East Quantoxhead |
| Nether Stowey | Lydeard St Lawrence | Holford |
| North Petherton | West Bagborough | Kilve |
| Over Stowey | West Monkton | Sampford Brett |
| Spaxton |  | Stringston |
|  |  | West Quantoxhead |

The elections will be administered by Somerset Associations of Local Councils.

Each candidate will be required to currently hold a position as a parish councillor on one of the parish councils within their local authority area and should ideally not be intending to stand down at the next parish council elections.

Candidates should preferably not be an elected member of a principal local authority: it is hoped that this will ensure that those elected to the Quantock Hills JAC will be better able to focus on issues at the parish council level and give the necessary time and commitment to the work of the JAC Committee.

Each of the four parish councillors elected to the Quantock Hills JAC would hold the post for a four-year term.

**Role of Parish Council Members on the JAC Committee.**

The role of parish council members of the Committee will be as follows: “A parish member will be regarded as broadly representative of parish interests but is not a delegate, so cannot be mandated by the parish councils concerned.  The involvement of parish members is to ensure that the Quantock Hills JAC takes full account of the needs of their local communities and to improve the links between the JAC and local residents.  Parish members should not just be spokespeople for the local issues, but ambassadors for wider concerns.  Parish members are appointed to reflect 'truly local concerns' but, in that, to represent the wider AONB view, not just that of their own parish.”