

## **Parish clerk**

Our parish clerk, Monica Blyth, is contracted to work 37 hours a week and is paid to national pay scales set down by National Association of Local Councils. The scale is set taking into account experience, qualifications, size of parish and duties etc. As an employer, the parish council has to pay NI and also pension contributions and expenses incurred by the clerk.

Herne and Broomfield is the largest parish in the Canterbury area and is a very busy parish, with a very pro-active parish council. The clerk often works more than the contracted hours and often does not take the time in lieu or ask for additional payment.

Without a clerk the parish council could not function, therefore this post is a very important part of the parish council. The clerk is often the first port of call for the local residents who have a problem or query. Monica has been in post 11 years and has a wealth of knowledge about the area, (growing up in Herne certainly helps with the historical knowledge).

Monica will always be honest with residents and if she does not think there is an easy solution to a problem she will say so, however she will always try to resolve any problem raised by residents even if she is not always successful.

The parish council always has a project or event that is in the pipeline and together with all the general day to day things Monica is kept very busy, despite this she always makes the time to help and listen to residents and councillors.