

§ARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS SUMMARY

Below are some observations of the 2019 Rutland Parish Council elections.

- 1.** In Rutland there are 31 Parish Councils and 24 Parish Meetings. Across the County 235 Parish Councillors could be elected.
- 2.** Of the 32 Parish Councils only 9 have nominated their allowed number of candidates. As a result Rutland will be 52 Parish Councillors light and that represents a 22% shortfall.
- 3.** The Parish Councils, large and small, have varying numbers of Councillors. Presumably this was originally based on population numbers. Great Casterton, Little Casterton, Seaton, and Ashwell have five. Taking Great Casterton as the median in terms of population (500) fourteen other councils in smaller villages are allowed 6/7/8 councillors.
- 4.** The key factor across the County is that with the exception of Little Casterton all the 5 councillor Parish Councils have their required numbers, along with the two towns and some of the larger villages like Empingham, Edith Weston and North Luffenham, all of whom have greater numbers.
- 5.** There are only two Parish Councils who will not have a quorum, (Little Casterton and Lyddington) but presumably they may be able to make up the numbers by coopting candidates.
- 6.** In conclusion, interest in local government at Parish level is not as good as it should be and it would be counter productive to increase the numbers in the 5 member parishes as they probably would not be able to sustain the extra numbers, just as the 5/6/7 member councils have been unable to.