**LOCAL ELECTIONS 2019**

I am beginning to receive information about the Poll on 2nd May, 2019.

There will be two separate elections. The first is for one Borough Councillor to represent the entire Parish; following changes last year, we no longer have two councillors covering Snettisham, Ingoldisthorpe, Fring and Shernborne.

The second election is for the thirteen available places on the Parish Council. Qualifications for standing in this election relate to residence, right to vote, owning land or businesses, and working in the Village. Should thirteen or fewer candidates stand, those nominated will be deemed to have been elected, as has happened in most such elections in recent years. Fourteen or more candidates require an election, and I would suggest this is a good thing for local democracy.

The process is, as you might expect, not entirely straightforward, but to begin with, should you be interested in standing, you will need two people to sign your nomination form. This form must be delivered to the Borough Council between **March 18th** and **April 3rd**. It is therefore worth starting to think now about standing, and finding out as much as you can about the process.

The term of office is four years, and there are no specific requirements other than those relating to qualification as above. Training is provided free, and I would strongly recommend this. There is no payment for the role, except for the refund of reasonable or agreed expenses.

I can advise on all the relevant matters, including eligibility, election rules, filling in forms, the role and responsibility of parish councillors, codes of conduct, training and so on.

It is likely that there will be an opportunity to meet current councillors, and I would be happy to organise an evening session to explain things nearer the time. I hope to confirm these arrangements in the near future.

Please do contact me if you would like any assistance or information. The Office is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10-12 for a drop-in, or by appointment at other times. Contact details are below.

Simon Bower

Parish Clerk

18/1/2019