

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – MAY 16th 2023

Item 11 – To consider co-options to fill three vacancies for a councillor

BACKGROUND

As I reported at the Council meeting on April 11th 2023, the “Notice of Vacancies to be filled by Co-Option” for the councillor vacancies in Copythorne North Ward (2) and Copythorne South Ward (1) was to be placed on all of our noticeboards and website on April 12th 2023. I can confirm that this took place as planned. The closing date for applications was May 3rd 2023 with eligible candidates for co-option being considered at this Council meeting.

Two eligible candidates have applied, in alphabetical order they are:

Raquelle Atherton

Richard Fowler

PROCESS

As detailed in our Co-Option Policy the process to be followed for candidates is:-

At the co-option meeting, candidates will each be given five minutes maximum to introduce themselves to the parish councillors (members); give information on their background and experience; and explain why they wish to become a member of the Parish Council. The process will be carried out in the public session and there will be no private discussions between members prior to a vote being taken. However, where the Parish Council is discussing the merits of candidates and inevitably their personal attributes, this could be prejudicial, and the Parish Council should resolve to exclude the members of the press and public.

As soon as all candidates have finished giving their submissions, the Parish Council will proceed to a vote with each candidate being proposed and seconded by the councillors in attendance (as defined in the Standing Orders) and a vote by a show of hands (LGA 1972 Sch. 12. Para 13).

A recorded vote may be requested under Standing Order 3(s) so as to show whether each councillor present and voting, gave his/her vote for or against that question.

In order for a candidate to be co-opted to the Parish Council, it will be necessary for them to obtain an absolute majority of votes cast (50% + 1 of the votes available at the meeting).

The Clerk will notify New Forest District Council Electoral Services Office of the co-option of the new parish councillor.

The co-opted parish councillor will need to complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office before attending their first Council meeting and complete a Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests form which the Clerk will lodge with the Monitoring Officer at New Forest District Council within 28 days of the co-option.

David Rigby

Clerk to Copythorne parish Council

May 9th 2023