

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 13th 2023

Item 10 – To consider co-options to fill an ordinary vacancy for a councillor

BACKGROUND

Following the May 4th 2023 Parish Council elections the Parish Council had four councillors returned unopposed, leaving three vacancies (two in Copythorne North Ward and one in Copythorne South Ward).

At the May 16th 2023 Parish Council meeting two co-options (one for the North Ward and one for the South Ward) were approved.

The NFDC Electoral Services Team confirmed on May 18th 2023 that the Parish Council could continue to seek to fill the remaining ordinary vacancy in the North Ward by co-option. The vacancy was re-advertised on May 19th 2023 with a closing date for applications of June 9th 2023

As at June 6th 2023, one eligible candidate has applied:- Sherri Johnstone

Others may apply after the date of this report but before the closing date of June 9th 2023.

Details for all applicants will be supplied to all members before the meeting.

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).

If there are more than two candidates and there is no candidate with an overall majority in the first round of voting the candidate with the least number of votes will drop out of the process.

Further rounds of voting will then take place with the process repeated until a candidate has an absolute majority.

If a candidate is selected, the Clerk will notify the NFDC Electoral Services Team of the co-option of their details.

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

June 6th 2023