

AGENDA DOCUMENTATION

ITEM 8 CO-OPTION

The closing date for the Councillor vacancy was 9th July 2021 and the Parish Council received one application which has been circulated.

The applicant qualifies for membership of the Council as she has lived in the parish for thirty years.

The candidate at the time of application had received a co-option eligibility and person specification form.

WPC is not obliged to fill any vacancy. Even if the council invites applications for co-option it is not obliged to select anyone from the candidates that apply.

However, despite this, it is not desirable that electors be left under-represented for a significant length of time, neither does it contribute to effective and efficient working of the council if there are insufficient councillors to share the workload equitably; to provide a broad cross-section of skills and interests; or to achieve meeting quorums without difficulty.

Councillors elected by co-option are full members of WPC.

At the Co-option Meeting

The candidate will be given five minutes maximum to introduce herself to Members, give information on her background and experience and explain why she wishes to become a Member of WPC.

Where the Council wishes to discuss the merits of the candidate and inevitably her personal attributes the Council shall consider whether to exclude the members of the press and public.

The Council will then proceed to vote on the acceptability of the candidate utilising the person specification criteria and any personal statements provided by the candidate, with the candidate being proposed and seconded by the Councillors in attendance and a vote by show of hands.

In order for a candidate to be elected to WPC it will be necessary for them to obtain an absolute majority of votes cast (50% + 1 of the votes available at the meeting).

In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting has a casting vote.

After the vote has been concluded the Chairman will declare the successful candidate duly elected and, after signing their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, they may take their seat immediately.

The Clerk will notify Electoral Services of the new appointment. The successful candidate must complete their 'Registration of Interests' within 28 days of being elected. The form should be handed to the Clerk for forwarding to the Monitoring Officer.