

# Agenda Documentation Full Council June 2021

## 8. UPDATE ON THE COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The co-option of a Parish Councillor occurs when a casual vacancy has arisen on the council and no poll (by-election) has been called which is the case.

The Warbleton Parish Council Co-option Policy states:

The parish clerk will:

Advertise the vacancy for four weeks on the council notice boards and website – COMPLETED (advertised from 11.6.2021, closing date 9.7.2021)

Advise WPC that the Co-option Policy has been instigated – COMPLETED (all Councillors emailed 10.6.2021)

Each interested candidate will receive an application form and 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.

All applications will be circulated to all Councillors when I receive them.

The co-option will be an item on the July Full Council Agenda.

### At the Co-option Meeting

At the Co-option meeting candidates will be given five minutes maximum to introduce themselves to Members, give information on their background and experience and explain why they wish to become a Member of WPC. Where the Council wishes to discuss the merits of candidates and inevitable their personal attributes the Council shall consider whether to exclude the members of the press and public.

As soon as all candidates have finished giving their submissions the Council will proceed to vote on the acceptability of each candidate utilising the person specification criteria and any personal statements provided by the candidate(s), with each 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). 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 absolute majority. 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, he/she may take their seat immediately.

The Clerk will notify Electoral Services of the new appointment. The successful candidate(s) 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.

If insufficient candidates come forward for co-option the process should continue, whereby the vacancies are again advertised.

## **9. TO CONSIDER ADDING A POSITIVE PC STATEMENT AT THE END OF ALL PARISH COUNCIL EMAILS**

Cllr Smythe to verbally summarise the idea. (To be confirmed)

## **10. VEHICLE SPEED THROUGH MARKLYE LANE – Resolution required 10.1.**

10.1. To agree the Parish Council would contact East Sussex Highways to request a visit to the Markle Lane speed terminal point and consider its impact on current and potential road usage supporting implementation of appropriate measures to better manage vehicle speeds

Please refer to the email and photos sent by Monica-Adams-Acton.

## **11. PRIVATE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE GREEN – Resolution required**

I received the following email from a resident:

We are residents of Rushlake Green and I am contacting you on our daughter's behalf regarding a gathering to celebrate our grand-daughter's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday on 1st August. Our daughter would very much like to hold a picnic on the Green for friends and close family - possibly around 50 people including children and other babies. We should like to confirm whether it would be alright to put up a small pop-up gazebo on the Green (held in place by pegs) to provide shelter for the young ones. We live right on the Green and can assure you that no damage will be caused and everything will be carefully monitored by us grandparents!

## **12. UPDATE ON THE USE OF ZOOM – Resolution required 12.1**

12.1. To consider ending the monthly zoom subscription

There isn't any imminent legislation for legalising virtual meetings for Parish Councils. We would still have the option of holding informal zoom meetings for up to an hour free of charge (no subscription required for this). At the end of the hour if the meeting had not finished a new meeting could be set up and proceedings could continue. We have the option of re-starting the parish council zoom account if needed. The saving would be £14.39 a month.

