

# NOTICE OF VACANCY IN OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

## NOTICE OF CO-OPTION

### THE PARISH COUNCIL IS HOPING TO CO-OPT FOR THE CASUAL VACANCIES AT A FUTURE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

A person co-opted to fill a casual vacancy on a Parish Council must fulfil the same criteria as a person being formally nominated for a candidate at an election. The person must either be on the Register of Electors for Stratton and/or during the previous 12 months prior to appointment by co-option, either have occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises in the parish or had their principal or only place of work in the parish or have resided either in the parish or within 3 miles of the parish boundary.

The person should also not be disqualified for election under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972. Broadly, this relates to holding a paid office under the Town Council, bankruptcy, having been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 3 months without the option of a fine during the 5 years preceding the co-option, or being disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices.

Candidates are asked to submit information about themselves, by way of letter or e-mail and short presentation to the meeting outlining the reasons for their application. Applicants will also be asked to confirm their eligibility to serve, based on the above criteria.

#### **Voting**

- If there are more candidates than vacancies, the candidate with the least number of votes should be taken off the list of candidates, and if there are still more candidates than vacancies, the vote is taken again. This procedure should be repeated until the number of candidates equals the number of vacancies, and each candidate has a majority vote.
- Even if there are fewer candidates than vacancies, each candidate must receive an absolute majority, no majority, no co-option. There is no "co-opted uncontested" provision within the law.
- The successful candidate must receive an absolute majority vote of those members present at the Parish Council meeting.
- If a member is not at the meeting the legislation does not provide for a proxy or postal vote.
- Each Councillor must vote; no councillor may abstain
- The Chairman may only use his casting vote if two successive voting rounds are stalemated

If you are interested in the role of Parish Councillor or for more information, please speak to any current Parish Councillor or email the clerk [clerk@strattondorsetpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@strattondorsetpc.org.uk)

The Co-option policy and application form can be found on the PC website

August 2021