

Motion from Vice-Chair, Cllr Patricia Jones

This motion concerns the appointments to vacancies on the Parish Council.

Background

1. The Parish Council does not have a formal adopted process for handling parish vacancies but instead has relied for many years on informal custom and practice.
2. The outline of this practice is that councillors through connections, groups and social gathering in their wards promulgate the Council and its work and encourage parishioners to come forward to fill vacancies. What would best be described as “word of mouth”.
3. Alongside this and on an occasional basis the Clerk places an advert similarly encouraging people to come forward. I have used this word-of-mouth process to bring forward four candidates for appointment to vacancies in the Village Ward.
4. When a parishioner agrees to stand one of two things happens. The parishioner either writes to the Clerk expressing their interest or a sitting councillor acts as a sponsor and sends their details to the Clerk.
5. The Clerk then conducts necessary checks and ask the candidate to provide a few lines about themselves for circulation to councillors. The Council then considers the appointment in a public meeting.
6. In a recent deferment debate the first part of this custom and practice was discussed with the conclusion being drawn that it would be unwise for the Council to proceed to appointment of a candidate at the meeting because the Clerk hadn't placed an advert recently. The Chairman asked the Clerk to place an advert.

Motion

This motion asks the Council to do two things:

- a) To consider if co-options made arising from this word-of-mouth process have any implication for the Council and its decisions.
- b) For the Parish Clerk, working with a councillor, to bring forward to the January meeting a formal procedure for appointment to vacancies on the Council for consideration.

Tuesday 29th November 2022