



MARTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Co-option of New Members

Following the recent resignation of four councillors, public notices inviting requests for formal elections were issued. At the end of the statutory 14-day notice period, no such requests were received. Therefore, the Parish Council is now seeking expressions of interest for co-option onto the Council.

The Parish Council is advertising these vacancies to seek and encourage applications by Wednesday 17th April 2024 from anyone in the parish who is eligible to stand as a parish councillor. The attached form will be used as the basis of ascertaining a candidate's suitability to put his or herself forward for co-option.

ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES

The Parish Council is able to consider any person to fill a vacancy provided that:

- (a) he/she is 18 or over; and
- (b) he/she is a British citizen, or a qualifying Commonwealth citizen; and at least one of the following apply:
 - (I) he/she is an elector for the Parish and continues to be an elector; or
 - (II) has resided in the Parish for the past twelve months or rented/tenanted land in the Parish; or
 - (III) has had his/her principal or only place of work in the Parish for the past twelve months; or
 - (IV) has lived within three miles of the Parish for the past twelve months.

There are certain disqualifications for being a Parish Councillor, of which the main ones are (see s80 of the Local Government Act 1972):

- (a) holding a paid office or employment under the Parish Council;
- (b) bankruptcy;
- (c) having been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) of not less than three months, without the option of a fine during the preceding five years; or
- (d) being disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal electoral practices.

At the Full Council meeting on 24th April 2024, the following procedure will take place:

- Chief Executive to confirm that candidates are qualified to become a Councillor and are not disqualified from being a Councillor as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 S79 and S80.
- Chief Executive to invite candidates to the meeting and give an opportunity to speak if they are in attendance and to allow members the chance to ask questions of them.
- Only councillors present at the meeting may propose, second or vote upon a person to fill the vacancy. A councillor may only propose or second one candidate per vacancy.
- The Chair will offer opportunity for debate on the order of priority to offer co-option to the candidates. The candidates will be asked to leave the room while this process takes place.
- Voting for the new Councillors will be by a show of hands. The Chair will initiate a vote in alphabetical order. Councillors have one vote each.
- An absolute majority vote is required for each candidate from all members present and entitled to vote. If there are more than two proposed candidates for a vacancy and no one of them at the first count receives a majority, the candidate with the least number of votes will be eliminated and the remainder must be put to the vote again until an absolute majority is obtained (LGA 1972 Sch. 12. Para 39). One person will be chosen for each vacancy.
- The successful candidates are then declared co-opted to the Council and summoned to attend the next meeting of the Council.

The above procedure takes place in open Council. The Chief Executive will notify Somerset Electoral Services of the new councillor appointments and organise Declaration of Acceptance of Office paperwork. All new councillors, must, within 28 days of appointment, register their interests – forms to be supplied by the Chief Executive. The attached form will be used as the basis of ascertaining a candidate's suitability to put his or herself up for co-option.

Natalie Fortt
Chief Executive

NOTE: Please download this document and form for use. Alternatively, if you would like this document above and application form sent to you, please contact the Chief Executive via email at clerk@martock-pc.gov.uk.

MARTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Application form for role of Co-opted Parish Councillor

Full Name	
Home Address Including Postcode	
Home Telephone Number	
Mobile Telephone Number	
Email Address	

NOTE: It is a condition of being a Parish Councillor that your phone number and email address (official email address will be supplied) be made public via notice boards and website.

LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to both of the questions below.

Question	Answer Yes or No
Are you a British citizen or Commonwealth citizen	
Are you aged 18 or over	

To qualify you must be able to answer 'Yes' to at least one of the questions below.

Question	Answer Yes or No
Are you on the Electoral Register for Martock?	
Have you lived either in Martock or within 3 miles of its boundary for at least a year?	
Have you been the owner or tenant of land in Martock for at least a year?	
Have you had your only or main place of work in Martock for at least a year?	

DISQUALIFICATIONS

You must be able to answer No to all of the questions below to be eligible to serve as a councillor.

Question	Answer Yes or No
Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order?	
Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine?	
Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority?	

Please briefly outline of why you are interested in being a parish councillor.

Please tell us something about the life experience you will bring to the Council, for example, previous local government experience, work in the voluntary or charitable sector, business or trade union experience.

Are there any questions you would like to ask the Council?

Signed:

Dated:

Please complete and return this form to:

The Chief Executive, Martock Parish Council, via email at clerk@martock-pc.gov.uk
or in hard copy to The Market House, Church Street, Martock, TA12 6JL