

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL – 28th SEPTEMBER 2022**

BY THE TOWN CLERK

**ITEM 7 CO-OPTION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL
EASTBROOKE WARD**

FOR DECISION

Following the resignation of Councillor Cristofoli on the 20th June, details of the vacancy were advertised. With no by-election being called by residents, a co-option vacancy notice was published on the 14th July with a deadline of the 17th August.

Four residents came forward and their letters of introduction and/or CVs have been circulated to Members.

The four candidates therefore are:

Steve Coatsworth
Annette Eyre
Annie Lancaster
Jonathan Waugh

A number of councillors have already met and chatted to all of the candidates at an informal session held in the Council Chamber on the 24th August. It is hoped that this session will help Members in selecting a new councillor.

Co-option procedure at the meeting

Following confirmation from the Town Clerk as to the names and addresses of all the candidates, councillors present at the meeting must then decide if they wish to nominate any of the persons named at the meeting.

Only councillors present at the meeting may nominate, second or vote upon a person to fill the vacancy.

There is no obligation upon any councillor to nominate any of the applicants if they do not consider the person suitable for the office of councillor.

Each candidate must be nominated by a councillor, and provided the nomination is then seconded, that person can be voted upon.

Voting should be by a show of hands unless the council has adopted Standing Orders which allow another form of voting. The chairman of the meeting may exercise their casting vote in the event that there is an equality of votes.

Given there is only one vacancy, then:

- A councillor may only nominate or second one candidate
- The Chair puts the names of the those nominated into alphabetical and takes a vote by show of hands
- Councillors have only one vote each
- The first candidate to receive an absolute majority of those present and voting is declared elected

In the event of no single candidate receiving a majority on the first vote, the person with the lowest number of votes is eliminated, and voting takes place on the remainder, one vote per councillor. This continues until one person receives an absolute majority.

Successful candidates will be summoned to attend the next Full meeting of the council by which time they must have signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and read and understood the Code of Conduct adopted by the council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office is kept by the clerk.

The clerk should inform the District Authority Returning Officer of the name of the successful candidate

All new councillors must, within 28 days of election to office, register their interests with the District Council or Unitary Authority Monitoring Officer. Forms are usually supplied by the Monitoring Officer or by the clerk.

RECOMMENDATION: Following a vote, the process of which is detailed above, the Council is asked to resolve to approve the appointment of one candidate as a Councillor for Alton Town Council.

ITEM 8 TOWN COUNCIL I.T AND TELECOMS CONTRACT. FOR DECISION

In September 2018 Policy Committee agreed a new 6-year IT contract with Chalvington, with a break clause at the end of year 4.

In 2018 the Council was also advised that the current office-based server had approximately 3 – 5 years life expectancy.

On that basis the Council has been approached to invoke its break clause and start a new contract.

Since 2018, with the pandemic and an increased focus on cyber security, Chalvington have developed a Private Cloud Solution which enables the Council to set aside the office-based server and facilitates easier secure remote access for officers, regardless of the I.P address used to log in. The system is designed to be more secure than a desk based served and is GDPR compliant. The proposed updated telecoms system will attach the land lines to the mobiles for free internal calls and also satisfy a observation raised by our Health and Safety auditor recently in respect of locating lone workers, as an app can be loaded onto the mobile phone to enable staff to be identified on a locator.

In accordance with Financial Regulations as the cumulative cost of the contract is in excess of £10,000 this is being presented to Full Council for approval.

Officers are able to report that the I.T and telecoms support provided by Chalvington in the last four years has been good. The system also supports our CCTV systems as well as internet for the Town Hall, Assembly Rooms and Finnimore. With analogue lines being phased out the new contract will also enable any remaining analogue lines to be switched over.

The quotation is included in Members bundles for reference. The cost is £873.64 per month (which represents a saving of just over £50 per month on the current contract) and is within the amount specified in the approved budget codes for 2022/23

RECOMMENDATION: Members are requested to approve the contract with Chalvington as detailed above.