

LJ/AK/E1

☒ All Bridgnorth Town Councillors

25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Councillors

### **Brief to Councillors on Co-option Process and Voting**

The closing date for applications for the 3 councillor vacancies was 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The Council will consider applications at its meeting scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> July and look to appoint 3 suitable candidates.

Enclosed you will find copies of each candidate's application form. The application forms are confidential and the personal information within them is protected under Data Protection legislation.

Voting on the appointment of co-opted councillors will be in open session of the Council and votes will be cast by the raising of hands. It is not appropriate for the matter to be considered in confidential session. However, while you can personally refer to the application form you should not reveal any information to the public about its contents when debating or nominating candidates. The co-option process is an election and should not be considered a job interview.

I will be writing to each applicant to inform them of the co-option process and invite them to the 6<sup>th</sup> July meeting and have enclosed a copy for you to note.

We have received 12 applications for the 3 vacancies. Some applicants might be candidates for any ward, some are candidates for a specific ward and some are candidates for any but express a preference for a particular ward or 2.

There will be separate votes, one for each of the 3 vacancies (East Ward, Castle Ward and West Ward). Councillors will need to propose and second an applicant(s) for each vacancy. A vote will then take place between the proposed and seconded applicants.

A successful candidate must receive an absolute majority of votes cast not merely the most votes. Where there is not an absolute majority then voting can become a little complicated. Some examples of how voting might pan out in the event of no one candidate receiving an absolute majority of votes cast are demonstrated below.

**EXAMPLE A** - *Two nominated candidates.*

*Councillors nominate 2 candidates for a ward. Members will vote for their preferred candidate (or abstain). Here it is also likely that a simple majority will occur. However, should the vote (between 2 candidates) be Candidate A, 4 votes; Candidate B, 4 votes with 5 abstentions then the Chair of the meeting will be able to use a casting vote so that one candidate would receive 5 votes.*

**EXAMPLE B** – Multiple candidates with no absolute majority but a clear last place candidate.

Councillors nominate 4 people for the vacancy on Castle Ward (candidates A, B, C and D); each of the 13 councillors casts a vote and the results are: A (5 votes), B (3 votes), C (3 votes) and D (2 votes). Candidate A is not elected as they did not receive an absolute majority of votes cast (they would have needed 7 of the 13 available votes to achieve an absolute majority). Where there is no absolute majority then the lowest scoring candidate is removed from the ballot and the vote is re-run (without the lowest scoring candidate). In this case candidate D would be removed from a second round of votes. The second round results might be: A(6 votes), B (4 votes), C (3 votes); again Candidate A has not received an absolute majority. As the lowest scorer candidate C is removed from the race and the vote is re-run between candidates A and B. The result might then be: candidate A 6 votes and candidate B 7 votes. This would result in candidate B being co-opted.

	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	Candidate D
Round 1	5	3	3	2 - removed
Round 2	6	4	3 - removed	-
Round 3	6	7 – co-opted	-	-

**EXAMPLE C** - Multiple candidates with no absolute majority but a tie between last place candidates. (With multiple candidates this example is not unlikely).

Councillors nominate 4 people for the vacancy on Castle Ward (A, B, C and D) each of the 13 councillors casts a vote and the results are: A (4 votes), B (3 votes), C (3 votes) and D (3 votes). There is no absolute majority and there is no clear candidate to remove from the race before a re-run of the vote. Candidate A whilst not co-opted will move into the second round of voting.

A further vote between the 3 tied (in last place) candidates will need to occur to see who should be eliminated. If the votes for the 3 candidates are as follows: B (6 Votes), C (4 votes) and D (3 votes), again there is no absolute majority here however, you will discount candidate D having received the least number of votes and re-run the initial vote with candidates A, B and C.

If the second round if the votes are as follows A (6 votes), B (3 votes), C (4 votes) again there is no absolute majority, candidate B would however be removed from the contest and third round of voting would take place between candidates A and C.

	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	Candidate D
Round 1	4 – moves to Round 2	3	3	3
Round 1a	-	6	4	3 - removed
Round 2	6	3 - removed	4	-
Round 3	7	-	6	-



**Lee Jakeman**  
**Town Clerk**

**Encl.**

- 1 - List of applicants for co-option**
- 2 - 11 x Co-options application forms**

CO-OPTION CANDIDATES & PREFERENCES

<b>NAME</b>	<b>WARDS INTERESTED IN (e.g. all or order of preference)</b>		
	<b>CASTLE</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>WEST</b>
Steve Browne	Any	Any	Any
Brian Jones	Any	Any	Any
Tony Green	Any	Preferred	Any
Gerry Colley	Preferred	Any	Any
Ross Ireland	Any	Preferred	Any
Brian James	Any	Any	Any
Diana Griffiths	?	?	Preferred
Chris Aked	Any	Preferred	Any
Suzanne Huxley	Any	Any	Any
Julie Evenett	Content	Preferred (2)	Preferred (1)
Rachel Seabright	Any	Any	Any