

# Marlborough Town Council



1 July 2025

Dear Councillor

## Full Town Council

I hereby **summon** you to an extra-ordinary meeting of **Marlborough Town Council** which will be held on **Monday, 7 July 2025** at **7.30pm** in the **Court Room, Marlborough Town Hall**.

**Councillors - please arrive at 7.15pm for preliminary preparation:** this will ensure we can be clear on the process and who will ask interview questions in the event of apologies for absence.

Yours sincerely

*Richard Spencer-Williams*

Richard Spencer-Williams PSLCC

**Town Clerk**

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with Standing Order 3(f), members of the public may ask questions of the Council. The time allocated for this should not exceed 10 minutes and be limited to one question per person unless directed otherwise by the Chair. A full response may not be possible without further research, and the Chair may direct that a written or oral response be given.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Apologies for absence**

### **2. Declarations of interest**

- a) To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under Marlborough Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011
- b) To consider any dispensation requests received by the Town Clerk

Members are reminded that they are obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer of a change to disclosable interests, or a new interest as defined in Appendices A and B of the Code of Conduct within 28 days of becoming aware of it. These should be passed on to the Town Clerk to register online.

### **3. Interview for Councillor Co-option**

### **4. To authorise the fixing of the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meeting.**

## Background

Under the Local Government Act 1972, s.79, as long as a potential candidate qualifies to be a Councillor then he/she can step forward. They must be:

- A British, Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen
- 18 years old or over and meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - i) Is, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish in which they wish to stand from the day of application onwards.
  - ii) Have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of application and the day of co-option.
  - iii) The main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of application and the day of co-option has been in the parish area.
  - iv) Has lived in the parish area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of application and the day of co-option

Certain people are unable to stand, and these include paid officers of the council, bankrupts, and those subject to recent sentences of imprisonment.

One candidate has applied:

- Nicholas Awbery for **West Ward**

The candidate qualifies under LGA.1972, s.79

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## Timings (guide times)

7.30pm Interview: Nicholas Awbery

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## The Process

The candidate has been invited:

- To provide a written statement setting out why they would like to serve as a Councillor and what attributes they might bring to the role. This statement can be found at Appendix 1.
- To make a short presentation (3 to 5 minutes) on 'why they have applied to be a Town Councillor' (at interview)
- To answer a series of questions asked by the Mayor and Chairs of Committees (Appendix 2)

- The candidate will be asked to vacate the Town Hall during the candidate consideration.
- If candidates request, they are permitted to attend the meeting during the vote, but it is not required.

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## Voting

- Members will listen to the presentation, consider the candidate's answers to the questions, and vote on the merits of whether they should be coopted or not.
- In the case of equal votes for and against, the Mayor will have the casting vote.
- After the vote has been concluded, and where the Council has voted in favour of coopting the candidate, the Mayor will declare the successful candidate duly elected. The candidate will be informed by the Town Clerk.

Wiltshire Council guidance states:

- The person co-opted must receive an absolute majority vote of the councillors present and voting.
- Councillors shall vote by show of hands, or, if it is resolved by Members, by paper ballot.

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## Recommendation

Members are asked to note the process and consider the candidate for co-option as a new Town Councillor to the West Ward.

**Town Clerk 23 6 25**

## ITEM 4

## COMMON SEAL

To authorise the fixing of the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meeting



## Co-option Eligibility Form

To be eligible for co-option as a Marlborough Town Councillor you must be (1) a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights; (2) 18 years of age or over and (3) able to meet at least one of the following qualifications set out below. Please mark all that apply as appropriate -

- I am registered as a local government elector for the parish of Marlborough
- I have, during the whole twelve months preceding the date of co-option, occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish
- My principal or only place of work during those twelve months has been in the parish
- I have, during the whole of the past twelve months, lived in the parish or within 3 miles of it

There are some people who are disqualified from being a Councillor. You cannot become a Councillor if –

- I. You are employed by the parish/town council
- II. You are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- III. You have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the previous five years
- IV. You have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations).

As long as you meet the criteria above, you may apply for co-option to either vacancy.

Please indicate here whether you have a preference: West Ward  East Ward  Either

I (insert name) NICHOLAS AWBERY confirm that I am eligible to apply for the vacancy of Marlborough Town Councillor and the information given on this form is a true and accurate record.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**REDACTED**

Dated 19.06.25

Please add your contact details so we can get in touch.

By phone

**REDACTED**

By email

**REDACTED**

Postal address

**REDACTED**

Marlborough

**REDACTED**

Your completed form and statement must arrive before 12:00 noon on Friday 20 June 2025 to:

[townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@marlborough-tc.gov.uk)

or

Marked 'Private and Confidential' by post to Mr Richard Spencer-Williams, Town Clerk, Marlborough Town Council, 5 High Street, Marlborough SN8 1AA

## Statement in support of vacant Marlborough Town Councillor via co-option

I have always been involved in public service. As a teacher of 25 years I made it my purpose to be the voice for those, who perhaps could not speak up for themselves. As a Head of Year, Head of Sixth Form, Designated Safe Guarding Officer, and as a Chair of Governors (Primary), I worked relentlessly to improve the opportunities for young people, their families and their communities. The latter part of my career was focussed on running business aspects of an Academy Trust. Here I managed the strategic planning, contracts, financial bids, building projects, and was the responsible person for Health and Safety.

I now run my own business in Marlborough as well as coaching fitness in a local gym. As a result, I see directly how various issues such as housing, traffic congestion, parking and access to amenities can and do affect our community. This quote: "The instantaneous nature of modern discourse means we are primed to crave velocity over veracity, and reaction over reflection" (David Grimes, *The Irrational Ape*, 2019), constantly drives me to learn about people, and try to understand decisions which need to be made, or decisions which have been made. I am pragmatic, analytical, thorough, and have exceptional listening skills. I have always been recognised professionally as someone who is calm, objective and unbiased, making decisions based on merit. I believe that I can contribute to the already strong skill set of the Marlborough Town Council.

I am therefore putting myself forward to serve the town. I am always grateful that I get to live in such a beautiful place with a thriving community and I champion Marlborough at every opportunity. A conversation with a previous neighbour, Abi Beaumont, galvanised that serving the town is something I now have the capacity to do, and it is an opportunity I would relish. This submission would be to become an Independent Councillor as my drive is not politically motivated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Faithfully

**REDACTED**

Nicholas Awbery

**Question 1 - Town Mayor**

What do you think are the key issues for the Marlborough community?

**Question 2 - Chair of Planning Committee**

What skills, attributes, or areas of expertise would you bring to Marlborough Town Council?

**Question 3 - Chair of Amenities & Open Spaces Committee**

What is your understanding of the purpose, and roles and responsibilities, of Marlborough Town Council?

**Question 4 - Chair of Property Committee**

How much time do you think is required of someone to be a local Councillor and what impact would the role have on your other commitments?

**Question 5 - Chair of Finance & Policy Committee**

What should the Council consider when spending local taxpayers' money?

**Question 6 - Chair of Staffing Committee**

What do you think would be the main challenges of being a local Councillor?

**Question 7 - Town Clerk**

Is there any reason that, if offered the position of Councillor, your employment would prevent you from accepting office?