

Marlborough Town Council



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COUNCIL OFFICES

5 HIGH STREET

MARLBOROUGH

WILTSHIRE

SN8 1AA

5th October 2021

Dear Councillor,

I hereby summon you to an extra-ordinary meeting of **Marlborough Town Council**, which will be held on **Monday 11th October 2021** in the **Assembly Room, Town Hall at 7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Spencer-Williams

Mr Richard Spencer-Williams, PSLCC
Town Clerk

Public Question Time - In accordance with Standing Orders, members of the public may ask questions of Full Town Council. The time allocated for this should not exceed 10 minutes and be limited to 1 question per person of a duration of no longer than 3 minutes unless directed otherwise by the Chairman. A full response may not be possible without further research and the Chairman may direct that a written or oral response be given.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**

- 2. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**
 - 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. Exclusion of Press and Public**

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- 4. Interviews for Councillor Co-option**

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

ITEM 4 Interviews for Councillor Co-option

1. 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) have been on the electoral register for the parish, or
 - ii) during the previous 12 months have owned or tenanted land or premises in the parish, or
 - iii) during the previous 12 months their principal or only place of work has been in the parish, or
 - iv) during the previous 12 months they have resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it.

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

Two candidates have applied:

- Mrs Edwina Fogg
- Mr Dominic Gregory

Each candidate qualifies under LGA.1972, s.79

2. Outline of meeting

- 7.00 pm Preliminary preparation (Outline of session, Chairs questions etc)**
- 7.15pm Interview Edwina Fogg**
- 7.45pm Interview Dominic Gregory**
- 8.15pm Consideration of candidate's answers**
- 8.30pm Election of co-opted Councillor – voting**
- 8.45pm End**

3. The Process

All candidates have been treated alike and after expressing an interest and confirming that they qualify for the role, each has been invited:

- To provide a written statement (no more than one side of A4) setting out why he/she would like to serve as a Councillor and what attributes they might bring to the role. (These statements can be found at **Appendix 1**).
- To make a short presentation (3 - 5 mins) at the Full Council meeting on 11th October 2021 of **'why they have applied to be a Town Councillor'**
- To answer a **series of questions asked by the Mayor and Chairs of Committees. (Appendix 2)**
- Each candidate will be asked to vacate the Town Hall during candidate interviews. If Candidates request, **they are permitted to attend the meeting during the vote**, but it is not required.

4. Voting

- Members will listen to presentations, consider candidates answers to the questions, and vote for their chosen candidates after all have spoken.
- In the case of equal votes for each candidate, the Mayor will have the casting vote.
- After the vote has been concluded, the Mayor will declare the successful candidate duly elected. The candidate will be informed by the Town Clerk.

WC 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.

5. Town Clerk's Recommendation

The Town Clerk recommends that Members note the process and consider and elect one candidate for co-option of a new Town Councillor to the West Ward.

Town Clerk

Appendix 1 Councillor Applications

Edwina Fogg

I am applying to this Councillor vacancy 'because of unfinished business'. When, in 2013, towards the end of my mayoral year, I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, I decided to step down from the Town Council, uncertain of what awaited me. Fortunately, the therapies that I received were successful. Without the diagnosis, I should certainly have hoped to continue to represent the East Ward.

Another reason for my desire to serve is that I would like to be involved in H.M. the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. For her Diamond Jubilee, I organised a whole programme of events (see the article in Wiltshire Life), contacting organisations, societies, businesses, shops, and schools to encourage a focussed and coordinated approach. I believe that the expertise that I then gained would be of value as we plan ahead for Marlborough's involvement in 2022.

As a founder member of the Marlborough Community Orchard, which gifted the Diamond Jubilee Plantation to the town, helping it to secure Britain in Bloom awards, Our mission statement, 'A Town in an Orchard', dovetails neatly with Marlborough Town Council's commitment to Transition Marlborough. I should like to elaborate on this when I make my short statement to the full council.

One final point: I am interested in raising sponsorship and have a track record on this. I persuaded Jamie Robb of Marlborough Tiles to have designed and create the wonderful work-of-art in the Court Room, which was unveiled by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee.

Let's look forward to a right royal celebration!

Dominic Gregory

This note supports my application to become a councillor for Marlborough Town Council.

1. I care deeply about Marlborough. I have children at the College, and I have properties in the High Street and nearby Marlborough. But much of my focus is more likely to be the quieter, more understated, more vulnerable, and needy inhabitants, and communities in and around Marlborough.
2. I tend to talk to lots of different types of people in the town. I make an effort to engage and to hear different views and carefully to consider what may or may not improve the life in Marlborough and life Marlborough and, crucially, its heritage and traditions.
3. I am a lawyer by training, and I spend much of my time listening and debating with people and trying to solve problems with clients and counterparties. I think this may give me a good grounding for serving as Councillor.
4. I have a passion for the environment and sustainability. As some on the council will know, I am already trying to assist with all of the pollution, nature, carbon, planning and conservation efforts locally. I also feel strongly that Marlborough has the opportunity to make the most of these areas, including the curious subject of “sustainability” and potentially to achieve 2 things simultaneously – to become a focus regionally/nationally for environmental matters and also, to become of real interest to tourists and central government in the environmental discussion and potentially to prosper in the middle of “green business”.
5. Outside of work, I have 4 children and one of my passions is walking and hiking all over the Pewsey Vale and glorious countryside surrounding Marlborough.
6. Thank you very much for considering this application.

Appendix 2

Councillor Interview Questions

Qu1 Mayor

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

Qu2 Chair Planning

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

Qu3 Chair A&OS

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

Qu4 Chair Property

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?

Qu5 Chair F&P

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

Qu6 Chair Staffing

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