



TOWN COUNCIL VACANCIES

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

14 JUNE 2010

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with a summary of the present position in respect of each of the current six vacancies for Town Councillors.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) As a consequence of five resignations and one death in service since March this year, there are currently vacancies for six Town Councillors to complete its full establishment of 11.
 - b) The full establishment provides for three Town Councillors for each of the Ventnor East and Ventnor West parish wards, two for each of Lowtherville and St Lawrence, and one for Bonchurch.
 - c) The current vacancies are in Ventnor West (2), Ventnor East (2), Lowtherville (1) and St Lawrence (1).
-

2) VENTNOR EAST

- a) Arrangements are already in place for filling one of the two Ventnor East vacancies through an election on Thursday 24 June for which Poll Cards have been issued and Polling Booths will be open between 7am and 10pm on the day.
 - b) We have been informed by the Electoral Services Manager that there were insufficient requests for a Poll to fill the other vacancy and that, consequently, the vacancy will be filled by co-option using the process set out in section 6 of this report.
-

3) VENTNOR WEST

- a) One of the Ventnor West vacancies has been properly notified to the Electoral Services Officer and notices to launch the election process will be published as soon as the requirements for the notification of the other vacancy have been fulfilled.
 - b) The delay in that is the result of the former Councillor's letter of resignation being addressed to the Town Clerk when the legal requirement is for it to be addressed to the Mayor. The Town Clerk has made a request to the individual concerned for that change to be made but no response has yet been forthcoming.
-

4) ST LAWRENCE

The once vacancy in this parish ward has been notified to the Electoral Services Officer as a correctly addressed resignation is now held by the Town Council.

5) LOWTHERVILLE

The Lowtherville vacancy is the consequence of the death in service of the previous Town Council member and has been notified to the Electoral Services Officer.

6) CO-OPTION PROCESS

- a) When an election has not be called for by ten or more electors from the parish ward in which a vacancy has occurred, notices will be displayed advertising the vacancy and requesting people to put their names forward for co-option.
 - b) All replies will be circulated to members of the Town Council for consideration and the Town
-

Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor will arrange a date for a special meeting where candidates for co-option will be asked to make a short presentation to Members of the Town Council.

- c) The Co-option will then be made at the earliest full meeting of the Town Council.
-

7) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is asked to:

- a) note the position set out in this report;
 - b) authorise the Town to seek an acceptably addressed letter from the previous Town Councillor identified in section 3 above;
 - c) adopt the co-option process set out in section 6 above; and
 - d) authorise its implementation.
-