

Marlborough Town Council



22nd March 2023

Dear Councillor

Full Town Council

I hereby **summon** you to an extra-ordinary meeting of **Marlborough Town Council** which will be held on **Wednesday, 29th March 2023** at **7pm** in the **Court Room, Marlborough Town Hall**.

Councillors - please arrive early for preliminary preparation at 6.45pm: 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

Town Clerk

Public Question Time

In accordance with Standing Order 3(f), members of the public may ask questions of the Planning Committee. The time allocated for this should not exceed 10 minutes and be limited to 1 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. Interviews for Councillor Co-option

4. 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.

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.

Three candidates have applied:

- Mr Peter Davies
- Mr Roger Grant
- Mr Martin Sims

Each candidate qualifies under LGA.1972, s.79

Timings (Guide times)

7.00pm	Interview: Peter Davies
7.30pm	Interview: Roger Grant
8.00pm	Interview: Martin Simms
8.30pm	Consideration of candidates' answers
8.50pm	Election of co-opted Councillor – voting
9.00pm	End

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 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 to 5 minutes) on '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 other candidate interviews and during the candidate consideration.
- If candidates request, they are permitted to attend the meeting during the vote, but it is not required.

Voting

- Members will listen to presentations, consider candidates' answers to the questions, and vote for their chosen candidate 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.

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.

Recommendation

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

Town Clerk 20 3 23

Peter Davies

Despite not being born in Marlborough I have spent my entire working career based here.

I didn't plan on becoming a photographer; I grew up in a military family and for most of my early life sincerely believed I would follow my father into service. But fate has a funny way of showing you a different path – I had an accident at the age of 18 which prevented me going to Sandhurst. That meant I had to find something else to do and I ended up, quite by chance, working in a photography shop (now Costa Coffee).

I left Marlborough to complete an apprenticeship in photography in Wootton Bassett before returning to Marlborough. My father and I took over the photography business and moved to our current position at 35 High Street.

As a successful photographer, I have been fortunate to travel the world and photograph both royalty and celebratory, as well as some familiar brands such as Virgin, Macmillan New York, Dolce & Gabbana and Marlborough College. My main residence is in Marlborough.

My wife is a barrister at the Attorney General's office and my son attends St Johns Academy, both can be seen at Park Run on a Saturday morning on the Common.

Having had a bricks and mortar business on Marlborough High Street for over thirty years I feel I am well placed to assist our beautiful town, and am a familiar face to many residents.

I would like to be considered for the position of local councillor.

Roger Grant

In 2002 I moved from Rochester, Kent to Wiltshire. For the first 7 years I lived in Great Bedwyn. Upon my retirement my wife and I moved to Manton in 2009.

Within the first few months I was invited to join the Manton Village Hall Management Committee where I was given the role of fundraiser and social secretary. Shortly after joining I went to a music evening in the local pub and started talking to Stuart Whant. The result of that conversation was the beginning of MantonFest in 2010. Since then the festival has become a major event in the Marlborough calendar. In order to bring the village community closer together I started the Manton Village News Letter. This is issued quarterly and keeps everyone up to date with future events. In addition, I have sat on a few committees to do with events in Marlborough over the past couple of years.

I have mentioned the above to show I do have experience in organising things and getting them done. Every problem has a solution.

Moving to Marlborough changed my life. Marlborough and Manton have allowed me to live my dream (music festival) and I would like to give something back to Marlborough. I think the best way is to do this is through the Town Council.

The majority of my working life has been in hospitality and that has given me a wide experience of running businesses and people management. I listen to people which I think is important. If something needs to be done I will get it done or have a good try at it.

Thank you for reading this.

Martin Sims

I am 56 years old with a keen interest and care for the community that I live in, Marlborough.

My children, and grandchild, have set roots in Marlborough and I am personally committed to this town.

I believe that businesses and residents in the town have joint responsibility to maintain and enhance the lives of those living and working here.

Working within the Council would enable me to contribute to the Town's continued prosperity and progress in these very testing times.

I would like to bring life experiences to the table and believe I can commit time and effort to help Marlborough Town Council continue the fine work that shapes all of our lives in some way.

I look forward to discussing this further.

Thankyou.

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?