

Marlborough Town Council



7 September 2023

Dear Councillor

Full Town Council

I hereby **summon** you to an extra-ordinary meeting of **Marlborough Town Council** which will be held on **Monday, 18th September 2023** at **7pm** in the **Assembly 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, PSLCC

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:

- Emily Trow
- Iryada Ashmore
- Madeleine Roux

Each candidate qualifies under LGA.1972, s.79

Timings (Guide times)

7.00pm	Interview: Emily Trow
7.30pm	Interview: Iryada Ashmore
8.00pm	Interview: Madeleine Roux
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 East Ward.

Town Clerk 7 9 23

ITEM 4

COMMON SEAL

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

Marlborough
Wiltshire

Thursday 31st August 2023

Dear Mr Spencer-Williams

It is with great pleasure that I submit my application to you for the position of Councillor for the East Ward of Marlborough.

I have been a resident of Marlborough for 25 years and have been associated with Marlborough for most of my life. I have tried to give back to the community in as many ways as I can. I have frequently volunteered for events (Christmas lights, Coronation street party, litter collection to name but a few) but I really would like to make a difference to our community and as such, I am putting myself forward as a representative and voice for the good of the whole community in which I live. I understand this is a huge commitment but also a fulfilling role for the following reasons:

- I believe in the ability of Marlborough Town Council to make a real difference for local people.
- I live locally and want to spend my free hours doing something that makes the Marlborough community a better place to be.
- I believe in the power of place-based, community-led approaches.
- I am passionate about aligning business, community and the Marlborough Town Council to achieve social, economic and environmental outcomes and think this is best done when people are invested in the long-term outcomes of a place.
- I envisage that the greatest challenges of the coming years will be solved first at a local level – small local action leading to big widespread change.

To me, being a councillor is all about giving back to our amazing community, by using my passion and energy to make a real difference to our local people and to wider society. This is an opportunity for me to help to shape the future of our local community in all kinds of ways, like:

- representing the views and needs of Marlborough people to ensure our fantastic community gets the right services
- tackling specific issues and areas of concern
- Driving new ideas and innovations.

My current role as a Key Account Manager is all about building lasting relationships with both my internal team and my customers. I need to be organised, focused, knowledgeable, a real team player and creative. I also possess excellent levels of communication, time management and the ability to be flexible with a consultative and empathetic approach. All these skills and more are valuable and transferable to ensure that I am confident I can represent the needs and voices of our community.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Kind regards

Emily Trow

IRYADA ASHMORE

My family and I live in Marlborough, and we take an active part in Marlborough Town life. I am a member of the tennis club, and my children go to St John's and Preshute schools. They are also active Marlborough Rugby Club members.

I work as Head of Finance at a medical device company in RWB. I am familiar with the town council's accounts as previously I used to work for Rialtas Business Solutions and assisted with the year-end accounts for councils. I was also a treasurer at Childrey WI, but resigned due to relocation.

I am Chair of the 'Swindon Family Contact Centre' charity which provides a safe and neutral environment for children to meet their non-resident parents, who otherwise would not be able to do so.

My interests are in children's wellbeing, sport opportunities and finances. I hope I could provide help in those areas. Though I have never been involved directly in the councillors' duties, I believe that my skills and interests would be of benefit and use to Marlborough Town Council.

Application as Councillor East ward Marlborough, Wiltshire – Madeleine Roux

Who am I and why do I want to be a town councillor?

As a local resident of Marlborough, I have a great love for the beautiful town and area that we live in. Steeped in history and with a touch of mystery the beautiful countryside, lively sports clubs, excellent schools and widest high street in the country has a lot to offer. I would like to see the town continue to flourish in the great community spirit that is so well recognised by the local people. My passion is people and I am confident I can drive new ideas, support initiatives and represent the views of residents. Giving something back to the community is extremely important to me, I believe that if we all play our part and work together we could make our environment a better place and make a real difference to the local community. I see the role of a councillor as being varied and highly fulfilling.

My background is a senior manager, director and coach, this gives me confidence that I can provide support, positive engagement and good decision making skills whilst also listening to the views and comments of residents. During my career and in my personal life I have always had an interest in getting immersed in local events, networking with community groups, business owners and educational providers to act in the best interest for future growth. Working with a diverse range of people, leading local conversations and supporting council, my aim is to help in making my area the best place to be.

What are my personal qualities and skills in support of my application as councillor?

An empathetic person with a focus on good values and principles. Important qualities in my life include respect, diversity, integrity, diligence and courage.

Skill Set

- being a leader in my community
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to contribute opinions at meetings whilst willing to see others' views and accept majority decisions
- Ability to communicate succinctly and clearly
- Making difficult decisions, in an open and reasoned way
- partnership and team working
- problem solving, questioning and analytical skills
- being flexible, adaptable and open-minded
- being organised and having good time management

Councillors shape the future of the local area by making plans and taking decisions, I am confident that I can fulfil the responsibilities in the East Ward Marlborough.

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?