

Marlborough Town Council



23rd November 2021

Dear Councillor

Full Town Council

I hereby **summon** you to an extra-ordinary meeting of **Marlborough Town Council** which will be held on **Monday, 29th November 2021** at **7pm** in the **Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall**.

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

This meeting will be held in the Assembly Room at the Town Hall according to the latest Government Covid Safety Guidelines, and managed according to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974(2)e.

There will be twenty places for members of the public to attend. If members of the public wish to attend they should notify the Town Clerk of this by noon on the Friday prior to the meeting. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Organisations and interest groups are asked to send one delegate.

All those in attendance at the meeting will be required to wear a face mask when moving around the Town Hall, unless or exempt, or when seated.

If members of the public wish to attend and ask a question they should also notify the Town Clerk of this by noon on the Friday prior to the meeting and provide their question in writing at the same time. Some members of the public may not be allowed to attend if all the allocated seats are taken.

If members of the public wish to ask a question, but not attend, they can provide the question in writing to the Town Clerk by noon on the day of the meeting, and a written response will be provided.

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 1 question per person unless directed otherwise by the Chairman. 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:

- Mrs Edwina Fogg
- Mr Martin Sims
- Lt. Col. Mark Luson

Each candidate qualifies under LGA.1972, s.79

Timings

7.15pm	Interview: Edwina Fogg
7.40pm	Interview Martin Sims
8.05pm	Interview Mark Luson
8.25pm	Consideration of candidates' answers
8.35pm	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 (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 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. 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.

Town Clerk's Recommendation

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

Town Clerk

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-Hodgkinson'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!

Martin Sims

I would like to be considered as a councillor and serve, to the opportunity to give something back to the community that I am proud to live in. This is a tangible and positive way to contribute to the well-being of Marlborough, it's people, businesses, and facilities. I believe I can combine business and life experiences to provide a rounded view that will add further to the work the Council do that ensures continued well-being and prosperity of its Town. I live and work in Marlborough, feel rooted here and I believe I can positively contribute.

Mark Luson

My reasons for applying to become a Town Councillor are:

1. I am a serving Army Officer who has chosen to live in Marlborough for its beauty, history, and strong sense of community. I am proud to call myself a resident and I want to help maintain the town's reputation as it develops.

2. As a father to a young son, I take keen interest in the relations between the town and all of our fantastic academic institutions. I would wish to see these relations evolve to deliver the very best opportunities for our future generations.
3. I am aware of the pressure to develop and expand Marlborough but would wish to ensure that in doing so we are able to retain as much of (if not all) of the existing charm of the town and preserve the beautiful country in which we sit.
4. I am absolutely determined that we should be doing everything we can to help our residents recover after the pains of the pandemic. This will take many forms but I am keen to assist on this long journey.
5. And in keeping with my chosen profession, I value selfless commitment above all. I truly wish to help keep this town great.

I thank you for your consideration and wish you the best of luck in selecting a new councillor.

Appendix 2

Councillor Interview Questions

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 Sub 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?