

## **Item 9 – Co-option Policy – Walden Ward**

### **1 Casual Vacancy Walsden Ward**

- 1.1 A casual vacancy for Walsden Ward was advertised on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021, with the end date for receipt of ten members of the public seeking a bye election ending on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- 1.2 No request was received and in accordance with the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules 2006, rule 5(5) we must now proceed with seeking to recruit a co-opted member.
- 1.3 Such a co-opted person then remains a Councillor for that ward until the next election cycle is reached.

### **2 Co-option**

- 2.1 As this is not an election process, where Members are often standing representing a political party, there needs to be a process where there should be a non-political bias as to the co-opted member selected.
- 2.2 Whilst there is no need when being elected to evidence what skills experience and benefit a candidate may bring to the Town Council, without the peoples vote to decide, there is a need to put in place some form of guide/policy as to what person is best suited to step into this important role ,pending in the future, new elections being called.
- 2.3 The process of seeking nominations for co-option needs to be transparent and open for all who would qualify as an election candidate.
- 2.4 If at the time of any closing date for applications to be received by the Town Clerk, only one nomination is received that person is automatically co-opted.
- 2.5 If at the time of any closing date for applications to be received by the Town Clerk, more than one applications receive a process for selection must be followed and a decision made at Full Council with a majority vote required.
- 2.6 In becoming a co-opted Member, normal processes of Register of Interests and Code of Conduct apply.

### **3. Timescale**

- 3.1 Subject to Members agreement the invitation to apply will be issued on the website after 3 pm on 16th December 2021 and a press advert scheduled for 23rd December Tod News.
- 3.2 Closing date for applications to be 19th Jan for then decision at Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- 3.3 Copies of applications will be distributed to Members to consider

### **4. Co-option Policy**

- 4.1 Having researched a number of other Town Council Co-option policies and having given consideration to our type of activity, a proposed policy ( Appendix 1 ) is attached for Members to consider whether to adopt or amend as appropriate .