

COUNCIL

13 March 2017

BARLEYTHORPE INTERIM PARISH COUNCIL: APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM COUNCILLORS

Report of the Director for Resources

Strategic Aim:	All		
Exempt Information	No		
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr O Hemsley, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Growth, Trading Services and Resources (except Finance)		
Contact Officer(s):	Debbie Mogg, Director for Resources	01572 758358	dmogg@rutland.gov.uk
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Ward Councillors	Oakham North West - Mr R Gale and Mr A Mann		

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Approves the appointment of the individuals listed below as interim councillors to Barleythorpe Interim Parish Council until the election of Parish Councillors in May 2018:

- Mr C Marsland
- Dr N A Plummer
- Mr A Westlake
- Mr D Blanskby
- Mr P Goodwin
- Mrs S Webb
- Mr R Gale (County Councillor for Ward of Oakham North West)
- Mr A Mann (County Councillor for Ward of Oakham North West)

2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to seek expressions of interest and appoint to any vacancy that may arise in the Barleythorpe Interim Council.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint 6 Members to the Barleythorpe Interim Parish Council, who along with the 2 County Councillors for the Ward of Oakham North West, will form the Interim Council until May 2018 in accordance with transitional provisions set out in Section 12 of the Rutland County Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2017 (The Reorganisation Order) (Appendix A).

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Final Recommendations for the Community Governance Review of Barleythorpe and Oakham North West were approved by the Council on 9 January 2017. The Reorganisation Order provides for transitional arrangements to be put in place until the election of Parish Councillors in May 2018. Council agreed that an interim council would be created with a total of 8 members to include the 2 County Councillors for the Ward of Oakham North West, along with 6 other members to be appointed from expressions of interest put forward.
- 2.2 A letter seeking expressions of interest from the Barleythorpe Community for the Interim Council, was issued to the Barleythorpe Parish Meeting and the Barleythorpe Neighbourhood Forum. The details were also sent to the Ward Councillors, posted on the Council Website and a Press Release was also issued. The closing date for expressions of interest was 20 February 2017. In total 6 expressions of interest were received and a summary of the applicants can be found below.
- 2.3 As agreed at the Council meeting on 9 January 2017, the Constitution Review Working Group (CRWG) met on 24 February 2017 to consider the expressions of interest put forward for Barleythorpe Interim Parish Council. The CRWG were pleased that a sufficient number of people had come forward for the Barleythorpe Interim Council, but had not had to apply any selection process as there had been 6 expressions of interest for 6 places. The CRWG were unanimous in support of those candidates expressing an interest (Listed in Section 3 below).

3 SUMMARIES OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR BARLEYTHORPE INTERIM PARISH COUNCIL

3.1 Mr C Marsland

- Nearly 40 years in state secondary education in various roles
- Chair Barleythorpe Neighbourhood Forum
- Knowledge and expertise includes - Managing teams of professionals, Buildings management and development, Health and Safety and insurance, Budget planning and management (circa £4million), liaising with other professionals e.g. planners/contractors.
- Reason for interest: "I have been chair of the Barleythorpe Forum since March 2016 and have worked with a team to build the support for the establishment of the Parish Council and to further the interests of the residents of Barleythorpe."

3.2 Dr N A Plummer

- Involved with the formation of the Barleythorpe Forum since its inception: responsible for finances; opening of bank account; IT; creation of resident database and communications with the residents of Barleythorpe and members of Forum.
- Lived in "Old Barleythorpe" for 16 years and been involved in historical efforts to get views of residents considered by RCC.
- Self-employed business owner for past 38 years.
- Reason for interest: "The Parish Council needs to represent both "Old" and "New" Barleythorpe. As a resident, of what is now the minority of the Parish, I feel that both groups should be equally represented."

3.3 Mr A Westlake

- Worked as an officer of Mansfield District Council, Colchester and Lambeth Borough Councils in senior property related posts at Head of Service level. (2002 to date).
- Specialist in international financial services and banking for Ernst & Young based in Russia and Middle East (1993 to 2001).
- Senior officer of international American bank based in London (1985 to 1992).
- Sound working knowledge of local authority financial regulations, constitutions, practices and procedures including Cabinet Member briefing and drafting of decision reports. Background within local authorities has been in housing regeneration, and managing a corporate and commercial property portfolio.
- Active supporter of the Brickhill Parish Council including helping out at community events and assisting with crime prevention and community safety awareness for 25 years prior to moving to Oakham.
- Reason for Interest: "Having moved to Oakham at the beginning of 2016 I have been active with various local organisations (Oakham Heights Residents Association – Barleythorpe Neighbourhood Forum – Oakham 41 Club (Ex Round Table members) and local archery club. I see this as a great opportunity to give something tangible to my community and help promote the wellbeing and quality of life of residents."

3.4 Mr D Blanksby

- Former Oakham Town Councillor
- Chair of Barleythorpe Parish Meeting
- Proponent of the Barleythorpe Parish Governance Review
- Leader of Barleythorpe Community Trust
- System Manager in Pre-Press

- Architectural Design & Planning
- Reason for Interest: “I have worked for 4 years in pursuit of a Barleythorpe Parish Council and the infrastructure promised by Hawksmead.”

3.5 Mr P Goodwin

- Lived in Barleythorpe since 2015.
- Tarmac group, Regional Director - retired 1997.
- Previously served on the Burton Lazars Parish Council for about 5 years.
- Reason for Interest: “ have all the necessary skills and qualifications”.

3.6 Mrs S Webb

- Actively involved in assisting various residential groups in achieving their goals to ensure that Oakham Heights develops into the neighbourhood which has been set out by various planning and marketing concepts.
- Lead of the Green Spaces group through the Residents’ Association and am Secretary to the Barleythorpe Allotment Society.
- Familiar with issues arising from owners of new properties brought about by the developers and with communicating with the developers.
- Familiar with the needs and associated problems of ensuring the original development plans are adhered to.
- Excellent IT knowledge and capacity to learn and retain new information.
- Reason for interest: “I am very keen to be part of the development of this beautiful part of Rutland and to ensure that a balance between open spaces, community facilities/activities and buildings is maintained. I offer commitment, enthusiasm and passion”.

4 REMIT/MEMBERSHIP OF BARLEYTHORPE INTERIM PARISH COUNCIL

4.1 In a report commissioned by RCC in July 2016 Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC) advised that any Interim Parish Council had all the same powers as the actual parish council when that was formed, but recommended that if an interim parish council were created caution should be exercised in terms of decisions which may be deemed to be ‘sensitive’ or which commit the as yet unelected Council to a medium or long term arrangement. An interim parish council should ideally focus on the practical short term issues relating sensible preparations for elected councillors taking post following the first elections for the council in May 2018.

4.2 LRALC have also confirmed that the statutory qualifications do not apply to interim councillors, RCC can choose the composition of the council by appointing individuals they felt had appropriate skills, knowledge, background, or any other criteria they deemed relevant.

- 4.3 In addition to the 6 members appointed from expressions of interest it was deemed appropriate to appoint the two Ward Members for the area under review, Councillor Richard Gale and Councillor Alistair Mann, plus 2 advisory members.
- 4.4 The two advisory members will consist of RCC Officer Support (The RCC Officer will be allocated in accordance with the area/issue under discussion and so will vary to ensure the involvement of an Officer with the relevant expertise. The other advisory member will be an experienced member of another Parish Council.
- 4.5 Individuals appointed to the Interim Parish Council will be expected to attend regular meetings and contribute to the decision making process in the interests of the Barleythorpe community, this will include the management of a budget (See Section 7 below), selection and appointment of a Clerk, and other practical short term issues which relate to sensible preparations for the elected Parish Councillors taking post in 2018.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The documentation relating to this review, including the details of the consultations and responses and comments received from the consultations can be viewed on the Community Governance page of the Council website.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Interim Parish Council will have access to and control of funds raised by the precept which has been set at £17,960 for 2017/18. As such the Interim Council will have to adhere to financial regulations in relation to holding public money and must ensure that that money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 6.2 There is a financial implication to RCC in Officer time to support the Interim Council but it is not expected to be significant and can be contained within existing budgets
- 6.3 The cost of holding a contested election for any new councillors in 2018 will need to be assessed. This is currently predicted to be around £2000. The cost for the election can be included in the Budget set by the Interim Council for 2018/19.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The interim parish council is formally appointed by RCC via the Rutland County Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2017 (Appendix A), made under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 section 98. Subsection (3) which gives the principal authority the power to make any “incidental, consequential, transitional or supplementary provision as may appear to the principal council to be necessary or proper for the purposes of, or in consequence of, or for giving full effect to, the order.” Section 12 of the Reorganisation Order includes arrangements for the appointment of Interim Councillors.
- 7.2 The Interim Council will need to ensure that their governance and accountability practices comply with National Association of Local Council Guidance which details proper accounting and internal audit practices.

- 7.3 It is strongly advised that the Interim Council becomes a member of the LRALC in order to access support and advice and allow the Interim Councillors and Clerk to access training, briefings, and other resources.
- 7.4 If any vacancies arise during the period of the Interim Council, delegated Authority is sought for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make appointments as necessary. This will allow any vacancies to be addressed swiftly and avoid the potential for the Interim Council to be inquorate.
- 8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**
- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form (EqIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.
- 9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 9.1 There are no community safety implications.
- 10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**
- 10.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications.
- 11 BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 11.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.
- 12 APPENDICES**
- 12.1 Appendix A - Rutland County Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2017

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.