



# CO-OPTION PROCESS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 89/14

10 NOVEMBER 2014

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to consider the recommendation from its informal Interview Group for co-option to the present vacancy for the St Lawrence Ward.

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**No.    DETAIL**

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**1)    BACKGROUND**

- a) The by-election route for filling the vacancy for a Town Councillor for St Lawrence failed to attract the necessary requests from St Lawrence voters to trigger one.
- b) In these circumstances, the Town Council is required to seek to fill the vacancy by co-option through its existing Co-option Policy.

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**2)    PROCESS**

- a) The relevant formal notices were displayed on the Town Council's Noticeboard in the Central Car Park and on its web-site together with a display advertisement in the South Wight Chronicle in its editions of 9 and 16 October.
- b) These all invited Expressions of Interest in being considered for the vacancy to be submitted to the Town Clerk by noon on Wednesday 29 October.
- c) At the closing date two Expressions of Interest had been received.
- d) One was from someone who could not meet the eligibility criteria for membership of the Town Council.
- e) The other was from St Lawrence resident Delian Backhouse-Fry who was invited to meet the Informal Interview Group.

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**3)    INTERVIEW**

The interview lasting 45 minutes was with the Mayor, Councillors Leigh Geddes, Brian Lucas, Ken Knapman and Harry Rees and the Clerk.

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**4)    RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Group unanimously recommends that the Town Council approves the co-option of Delian Backhouse-Fry to the vacancy in the St Lawrence Ward and asks its Clerk to arrange an Induction session with her following which she will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

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