

## **CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **CO-OPTION POLICY.**

a) The Parish Council invites interested persons to write to the Clerk seven days prior to the next meeting, stating why they would like to be considered. To be eligible, a candidate must have attained the age of 18 years. He also has to be on the Electoral Roll of the Parish, or, during the whole of the past 12 months has either lived in the parish, owned or leased land in the parish, worked in the parish, or lived within three miles of it.

b) At the meeting, to which the candidates should be invited, they are asked at the start of the meeting to address the Council briefly and to answer any questions from Councillors.

### **Voting**

a) When filling a vacancy by co-option, a successful candidate must receive an absolute majority of those present and voting at the meeting. If there is more than one candidate for a vacancy, and no candidate receives a majority of all the votes cast, the candidate with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and the vote taken again. This procedure will be repeated until a majority is obtained for a particular candidate. In the event of a split decision, the Chairman has a casting vote.

b) Voting will be conducted by secret ballot. When there is only one candidate for co-option, a vote is still required to ensure that the candidate receives a majority of support.

c) Each vacancy will be filled by a separate vote (or series of votes).

d) The Council is not obliged to fill a vacancy if it does not think that any of the candidates are suitable.

### **Declaration of Interest**

If a candidate is a relative of a councillor, that Councillor must declare a non pecuniary interest and take no further part in the proceedings.

### **New Councillors**

Once the item of co-option has been dealt with on the agenda, the meeting can be adjourned in order for the new Councillor(s) to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. They can then participate in the remainder of the meeting.

2.7.15