



Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council

118 High Street Ingatestone Essex CM4 0BA
Telephone: 01277 353315 Fax: 01277 352915
Email: office@ingatestone-fryerningpc.gov.uk
www.ingatestone-fryerningpc.gov.uk

Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council Co-option Policy for New Councillors

This policy was adopted at a Full Council meeting on 4th June 2015, review due June 2017

The co-option of a Parish Councillor occurs when a casual vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council and no poll (by-election) has been called.

To ensure that a fair and transparent process is undertaken, the procedure below will be followed by Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council:

1. On receipt of written confirmation from the Electoral Service of the Borough Council, the casual vacancy can be filled by means of co-option. In this instance the Clerk will:
 - a. Advertise the vacancy for four weeks on the council notice boards and website, and place an advertisement in the Parish Council newsletter, if the date of the publication is appropriate.
 - b. Advise the Parish Council that the co-option policy has been instigated by sending a memorandum to all Councillors.
 - c. Speak with any prospective candidates to advise them on the role, responsibilities and conduct required of the office.
2. Applicants for co-option will be asked to:
 - a. Provide information about themselves by way of completing a short application form (A copy of which is attached).
 - b. Confirm their eligibility for the position of Parish Councillor within the statutory rules (A copy of which is attached).
3. An extraordinary Co-option meeting of the Full Council will be convened to take place on the same day as a Full Council meeting for the purpose of meeting with the prospective Councillors and voting on their appointment.
4. Copies of the application forms will be circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk, at least seven days prior to the meeting of the Full Council where the co-option will be considered. All such documents will be treated by the Clerk and Councillors as strictly private and confidential.
5. **Single applicant for one position**
Voting will be according to the statutory requirements, in that, a successful candidate must have received an absolute majority vote of those present and voting.

Multiple applicants for one position

If there are more than two candidates for one vacancy and no one, at the first count, receives a majority over the aggregate votes given to the rest, steps must be taken to strike off the candidate with the least number of votes and the remainder must then be put to the vote again; this process must, if necessary, be repeated until an absolute majority is obtained.

Multiple applicants for multiple positions

If there is more than one position available and more candidates than positions, Councillors will have a number of votes to reflect the positions available i.e. two votes for two positions, three votes for three positions. The candidates with the most number of votes will then fill the positions.

If there is more than one position available and less candidates than positions, each successful candidate must have received an absolute majority vote of those present and voting.

Single applicant for multiple positions

As per the procedure for a single applicant for a single position, a successful candidate must have received an absolute majority vote of those present and voting.

For this procedure only, Standing Orders will be set aside and Councillors will vote by a secret ballot and not by show of hands

In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting has a second or casting vote.

6. After the vote has been concluded, the Chairman will declare the successful candidate duly elected.



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Co-option Application Form

Name: _____

Address for Correspondence: _____

Tel: _____ **Mobile:** _____

Email: _____

Are you over 18? Yes / No

Please detail any experience and skills you have that may be relevant to Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council. (If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet of paper)

Is there any other information you would like to disclose regarding your application? (If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet of paper)

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

Please return your completed form, together with your eligibility form to: The Parish Clerk, Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council, 118 High Street, Ingatestone, CM4 0BA no later than: _____



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Co-option Eligibility Form

1. In order to be eligible for co-option as a Parish Councillor you must be a British subject, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union. You must be 18 years of age or over on the "relevant date", that being the day on which you are nominated. You must additionally be able to agree with the following qualifications set out below:
 - a. I am registered as a local government elector for the parish OR
 - b. I have, during the whole twelve months preceding the date of my co-option, occupied as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the parish OR
 - c. My principal or only place of work during those twelve months has been within the parish OR
 - d. I have, during the whole twelve months resided in the parish, or within three miles of it

Please circle all those criteria that apply to you

2. Please note that under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972, a person is disqualified from being elected as Local Councillor or being a member of a Local Council if he / she:
 - a. Holds any paid office or employment of the local council (other than the office of Chairman) or of a joint committee on which the Council is represented OR
 - b. Is a person who has been adjudged bankrupt or has made a composition or arrangement with his / her creditors (but see below) OR
 - c. Has within five years before the day of election, or since his / her election, been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence and has been sentenced to imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for not less than three months without the option of fine OR
 - d. Is otherwise disqualified under Part III of the Representation of People Act 1983 for corrupt or illegal practices.

This disqualification for bankruptcy ceases in the following circumstances:

- a. If the bankruptcy is annulled on the grounds that either the period ought not to have been adjudged bankrupt or that his / her debts have been fully discharged OR
- b. If the person is discharged with a certificate that the bankruptcy was caused by misfortune without misconduct on her / her part OR
- c. If the person is discharged without such a certificate

In a and b above, the disqualification ceases on the date of the annulment and discharge respectively. In c above, it ceases on the expiry of five years from the date of discharge.

I (insert name) _____ **hereby confirm, that I am eligible to apply for the vacancy of Parish Councillor and that this information given on this form is a true and accurate record.**

Signed: _____

Dated: _____