

St Cuthbert Without Parish Council

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Agenda Item 98

28 March 2019

ELECTION 2019

Summary

To advice on the election process and changes to the ward boundaries of the Parish.

The Process

Parish Councillors terms of office expire on 7 May 2019 with the election of new members to take place on 2 May 2019.

If you wish to stand for election the nomination period opened on the 15 March 2019 will close at **4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019**. Carlisle City Council would appreciate if nomination papers could be submitted as early as possible in the notification period.

This is the first election with the new Parish Wards introduced earlier this year by the Boundary Commission. There are now three wards Speckled Wood (1 Councillor), Parklands (7 Councillors) and St Cuthbert Without (7 Councillors). There are still 15 Councillors in total.

Each Councillor standing for election will need to decide which Ward they wish to represent and their nomination paper needs to be signed by a proposer and seconder whose name appears on the Register of Electors of **that Ward**. You do not have to live in the Ward but to have lived/worked or owned a property in the ward for twelve months preceding the election.

An elector may also not subscribe more nominations than the number of Councillors to be elected i.e. if a ward has two members, then the proposer can only endorse at the most two candidates for that area.

The Clerk has been sent a batch of nomination papers and these will be available for distribution at the meeting. I will also bring the Full Register of Electors for each Ward to the meeting for Members information. Nomination papers must be completed by both new candidates and existing Councillors who wish to stand for re-election. The responsibility for the completion and submission of nomination papers lies with the individual candidates and the Electoral Commission advises that they should not be posted, faxed or emailed and should be delivered in person or by someone entrusted by the candidate.

Councillors are requested to consider their position and if unclear on anything to contact the Clerk ASAP (rather than leaving to the meeting) as clarification may need to be sought from the Electoral Services Officer. For example- if you are unsure if you qualify for a Ward.

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After the Election

Uncontested Election

If the number of candidates who have been validly nominated does not exceed the number of Councillors to be elected in each Ward they will be declared elected. The Statement of Persons nominated will be published on 4 April 2019. Each individual Councillor will then be sent a formal notice that they have been elected, together with a declaration and return of expenses form which must be completed and returned to the Carlisle City Council Returning Officer within 28 days. The completion of both forms is a statutory requirement and although you may have incurred no election expenses these **forms must be returned** and it is the responsibility of the individual councillor to do so. Failure to return this form will mean that you are unable to act as a Councillor.

Contested Election

The notice of poll will be published on 24 April 2019. If there are more candidates than the number of seats in a Ward then the election will be considered contested and a poll will be held on **Thursday, 2 May 2019**.

Co-Options

If fewer Councillors are nominated and subsequently elected than the total number on the Council, the elected Members may co-opt suitably qualified people to fill the remaining vacancies provided there is a quorum (ie a third (5) of the whole number (15) of Councillors)

Hazel R Broatch
Clerk/RFO