

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

23rd March 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4.1 – PROPOSED ELECTION TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCY - PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS

1. REPORT

- 1.1 The Parish Council has been informed by Cheshire East Council (CEC) that in view of its receipt of ten or more signatures of Pickmere residents, an election will be held to fill the vacancy in the Parish Council resulting from the resignation of former Cllr Shaul.
- 1.2 The next step is that CEC will supply notices to be erected on Parish Council noticeboards, advertising for nominations within a specified period. When that period expires, CEC will inform the Parish Council of the number of nominations received. The options that will present at that point are as follows:
 - if no nominations are received, the Parish Council will be able to proceed with co-option of a replacement councillor;
 - if one nomination is received, that person will be elected unopposed;
 - if two or more nominations are received, the election will proceed, on 6 May in conjunction with the Police Commissioner election.
- 1.3 However, there is a decision to be made by your Council before then. The question is whether the Parish Council wishes CEC to print and post out polling cards to all electors in the Parish, or is the Parish Council content to rely on the notices of the election that would go on the boards / Parish Council website etc.
- 1.4 If your Council wishes CEC to provide and post the cards to electors, your Council has to fund this process. CEC's initial estimate is that printing would cost perhaps £175-£200, and postage approximately £300, thus a total of around £500.
- 1.5 CEC is hiring the Village Hall to hold the election, at a fee of £150 payable to your Council plus cleaning fees, and it may be that your Council is charged a proportion of this hire fee also (thus in effect paying itself).
- 1.6 The issue of polling cards to all residents means that all parish residents are made aware of the election, whereas reliance on your Council's noticeboards and website may not provide the same coverage.
- 1.7 It is understood that if your Council asks for cards, they will be printed during the period within which nominations are requested, so that when that period ends, CEC will know how many nominations there are, and therefore whether the election is contested or not. If it is to be contested, the cards would be posted out; if not, not, but the Parish Council would still be required to pay for the printing process.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members consider how the matter should proceed.

J Steel

Clerk to the Parish Council