

Appointment of Temporary Councillors to Rimpleton Parish Council

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1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Members approval for the temporary appointment of three people to Rimpleton Parish Council to allow them to progress urgent business, until an election or co-option can be held to appoint new Parish Councillors.

2. Recommendation

- a) That Council agrees to the appointment of the following persons as temporary members of Rimpleton Parish Council until such time as an election or co-option can be held and those elected or co-opted have taken up office:
 - Mr Michael Lewis
 - Mr Tony Capozzoli
 - Mr Henry Hobhouse

- b) That Council authorises the Assistant Director (Legal and Corporate Services) to make the necessary Order with effect from 22nd August 2014.

3. Background

The Parish Clerk advised that she had received a letter of resignation on 24th July and that there were now only two Councillors remaining on Rimpleton Parish Council. South Somerset District Council now need to appoint temporary councillors, sufficient for there to be a quorum for them to conduct urgent items of business in the interim period and, to assist in the election of new Parish Councillors.

4. Report

Following the recent resignations, there are now so many vacancies on the Parish Council that it is unable to act. Its quorum is three members. With fewer than three members a Parish Council cannot act. It cannot co-opt new councillors or exercise any of its functions. The Local Government Act 1972 gives this council the power to take action in such cases. This Council, pursuant to an Order made under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972, can appoint persons to fill such of the vacancies on the Parish Council as is appropriate to allow the Parish Council to progress urgent business, until such time as the election of new Parish Councillors can take place and those elected take up office.

Accordingly, three District Councillors, in political balance, have agreed to act as temporary Parish Councillors for this interim period to enable the Parish Council to continue to function.

5. Timescale

The Parish Clerk has posted the statutory notice of vacancies for the vacancies and no request for an election has been received, therefore, the co-opted District Councillors should be required for one meeting to assist in the co-option of new Parish Councillors. It is envisaged that sufficient people will stand for co-option to provide the necessary quorum. Any new members take up office upon making their declaration of acceptance of office in the prescribed form before or at the meeting of the Parish Council.

6. Financial Implications

There is currently budget provision made for members' travel expenses to attend approved duties. These appointments would be classed as approved duties.

7. Background Papers

Section 91, Local Government Act 1972

Ian Clarke
Assistant Director (Legal and Corporate Services)
