

Update re Hughenden Parish Council – Information collated by the editor and verified as correct by the Acting Clerk to the Council, Helen Hogan and Councillor Simon Kearey.

On 1 February 2022, Hughenden Parish Council became inquorate. The parish council acknowledges that this is a cause for concern across the parish. This situation has never happened before to Hughenden Parish Council as far as anyone knows and it is unusual for a parish council to become inquorate but not unknown.

The Council should have 15 councillors and it has a quorum of 5. Over the last few weeks, a number of councillors have resigned and now only 2 remain. These are Cllrs Linda Derrick and Simon Kearey. At the time of going to press, the Council is inquorate, so it is unable to meet and take decisions and all its committees and working groups are suspended.

In these situations, Buckinghamshire Council (BC) has powers under S91 of the Local Government Act to appoint sufficient councillors to make the Council quorate. In line with its procedures, BC is in the process of appointing David Carroll, Steve Broadbent, and Clive Harriss, who are BC councillors for the Bucks ward of Ridgeway East, to Hughenden Parish Council.

This will bring the number of councillors on HPC to 5 and HPC will be quorate. BC is arranging for the Council to meet on 8 March, further details will be announced, and members of the public will be welcome to attend this meeting.

Once the Council is quorate and can meet, it can then co-opt residents onto the Council. To date seven residents have applied to be councillors and are waiting to be co-opted. Once new councillors are co-opted, then the BC councillors can step down so as long as the parish council has 5 councillors.

HPC is unable to release the names of the applicants at this point, residents will know details on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Any resident can apply to become a councillor and even if all seven applicants are co-opted, there would still be six vacancies. Applications can be obtained from Helen Hogan, the Acting Clerk at HPC, [clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hughenden-pc.gov.uk). Please see [www.hughenden-pc.gov.uk/council-info/role-of-councillor/](http://www.hughenden-pc.gov.uk/council-info/role-of-councillor/) for more information on about the councillor role. If anyone is thinking of applying, they might like to go to the meeting on 8 March and see what the Council is like and talk to the parish councillors – both existing and newly co-opted. This meeting would also be an opportunity for residents to see and talk to Buckinghamshire councillors who represent our parish.

Every meeting of HPC has a session for public participation where anyone can comment or ask questions about anything on the agenda. The session only lasts 15 minutes and each person has a limited time to speak.

The dates of parish council meetings are announced on the website. [www.hughenden-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hughenden-pc.gov.uk)