



## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Alison Swannick – Clerk to the Council  
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### CO-OPTION VACANCY PARISH OF BIDDENDEN

One co-option vacancy currently exists and the Parish Council has been advised by Ashford Borough Council that it may co-opt one new parish councillor. Applications are, therefore, invited and should be sent to the Parish Clerk at the above address by **MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**. **PLEASE NOTE: The timescale for interviews may not be until the current COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Your application will be acknowledged and you will be contacted in due course.**

## Qualifications for standing for election

An **eligible** Commonwealth citizen is a Commonwealth citizen who either:

- does not need leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, or
- has indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election in England or a community council election in Wales you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union, and
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
  - a. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
  - b. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
  - c. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area.
  - d. You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

There are certain people who are disqualified from being elected to a parish or community council in England and Wales. You cannot be a candidate if at the time of your nomination and on polling day:

- a. You are **employed by the parish/community council** or hold a paid office under the parish/community council (including joint boards or committees).
- b. You are the subject of a **bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order**.
- c. You have **been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more** (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the five years before polling day.
- d. You have **been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983** (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations). The disqualification for an illegal practice begins from the date the person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for three years. The disqualification for a corrupt practice begins from the date a person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for five years.
- e. A person may also be disqualified from election if they have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority following a decision of the First-tier Tribunal (formerly the Adjudication Panel for England) or the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

If you are interested in applying or would like more information, the Council would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the council by email: [clerk@biddenden.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@biddenden.gov.uk) or telephone: 07783223450 if you wish to discuss this further.

Alison Swannick  
Parish Clerk

12 March 2020