

## **COUNCIL – 24TH FEBRUARY 2020**

### **Report of the Monitoring Officer**

#### **Part A**

#### **ITEM 6.6 APPOINTMENT OF A CO-OPTED PARISH MEMBER OF THE MEMBER CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

##### Purpose of Report

To enable the Council to make an appointment of a co-opted parish member of the Member Conduct Committee to fill a vacancy.

##### Recommendation

That Councillor Eric Ellingworth, a member Barrow Upon Soar Parish Council, be appointed as a non-voting co-opted parish member of the Member Conduct Committee until 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023 or until he ceases to be a parish councillor, whichever is the sooner.

##### Reason

To fill a vacancy on the Committee which provides the opportunity for parish/town councillors to contribute to the work of the Committee.

##### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new system for dealing with the conduct of elected and co-opted members of local authorities. As a result, the Council adopted its own new arrangements on 25th June 2012 which came into force on 1st July 2012. In order to address the concerns of parish and town councils about the loss of representation under the system set out in the Localism Act, the Council resolved to co-opt three non-voting parish members to the new Member Conduct Committee which was established (minute 17.3 2012/13 refers). There is currently a vacancy for one parish member position on the Committee.

##### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

Previous appointments of parish members to the Committee have been made for a period until just after the next parish and town council elections in 2023. This follows the pattern established for the previous Standards Committee of four-year terms running in parallel with the election cycle for parish and town councils. It is recommended that the new appointment is made to come to an end at the same time as the current parish members of the Member Conduct Committee.

## Report Implications

### *Financial Implications*

There is an allowance of £258 per annum payable to co-opted parish members. The cost will be met from the existing members' allowances budget.

### *Risk Management*

No specific risks have been identified in connection with this report.

Background Papers: None

Officers to Contact: Adrian Ward  
Head of Strategic Support and Monitoring Officer  
(01509) 634573  
[adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk)

Karen Widdowson  
Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring  
Officer  
(01509) 634785  
[karen.widdowson@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:karen.widdowson@charnwood.gov.uk)

## **Part B**

### Process for Making Recommendation for Appointment

1. Information about the role of a parish member of the Member Conduct Committee was circulated to all parish and town councils in the Borough. Two expressions of interest were received as a result of advertising the role in this way.
2. A panel comprising three members of the Member Conduct Committee, Councillor Tassell, (the Chair), Councillor Murphy and Councillor Vicky Ball (co-opted parish member), interviewed the two parish/town councillors who had expressed an interest in the role. The panel concluded that Councillor Eric Ellingworth should be recommended for appointment as a co-opted parish member of the Committee.

### Information about Parish/Town Councillor Recommended for Appointment

3. The following parish councillor is recommended for appointment as a parish member of the Member Conduct Committee:

#### Councillor Eric Ellingworth

Councillor Eric Ellingworth was co-opted as a parish councillor for Barrow upon Soar Parish Council in March 2018. He sits on the Finance and Policy Committee and the Planning Committee and is also part of a working party on the Community resilience plan. Councillor Ellingworth was born into a military family with a long history associated with Beaumanor and Old Woodhouse, worked for 40 years in civil aviation with BMA and later in Europe with a large multi-national Freight company,

Having first-hand experience of dealing with compliance and international industry standards, upon retirement ,returning to the Charnwood area settling down, and involving himself with volunteer work, this has included a spell at the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and vice chair of the local neighbourhood watch as well as currently being a visitor engagement officer at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridge and working with living history groups, locally in the community, Councillor Ellingworth helps with the local Open Gardens.