



Garstang Town Council

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Moss Lane
Garstang
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I hereby give you notice that an extra ordinary meeting
of the Council will be held in the library
on Tuesday 10 September 2019 at 7.30pm.

E Parry
Town Clerk
5 September 2019

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

3 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, the Council may resolve to exclude the press and public to discuss the following items relating to the co-option of Town Cllrs.

It is anticipated that the press and public will be excluded for the presentations. This advice has been received from LALC to maintain the possible confidentiality of applicant's personal details.

4 Town Councillor vacancy - for information; the decision to appoint will be made at the Town Council meeting on 16 September 2019

Four applicants have applied for the 2 Town Councillor vacancies.
Three applicants will be attending this evening's meeting, the fourth applicant will be attending an extra-ordinary meeting on 16 September 2019.

The three applicants attending this evening's meeting are

7.30pm	Sharna Mitchell, Tarnacre Lane
7.45pm	Alan Pearson, Bonds Lane
8.00pm	Chris Wilkinson, The Moorings

The applicants for the above vacancy have been invited to the meeting. They will give a short presentation on why they would like to become a Town Cllr and there will be an opportunity for Cllrs to ask any questions.

Supporting information from applicants.

Sharna Mitchell

Like many others, I'm an incomer to the town but I've been here long enough not to be tricked by being told, "I'll do it before next Preston Guild!".

In my working life I've developed skills that I'm confident can add value to the council, with previous roles including project management, event planning, customer service and communications. More recently I've focussed on social media as a channel for customer

service, creating channels and managing teams of advisers for businesses such as Marks and Spencer.

Some of my relevant skills include:

Analysis – I can quickly read and assimilate large amounts of information, often on subjects I have limited prior knowledge about. I'm quick to identify the important elements, seeing the potential negative and positive impacts, and contributing ideas to enhance and develop the plans when required.

Handling complaints/requests – I manage over 9,000 contacts each week, often from people with very strong feelings about the issue they're raising. I'm objective in handling these problems but aim to see the issue from all sides. I manage expectations when the solution isn't what the customer was hoping for, and aim for people to come away with a clear understanding and appreciation of why the outcome is what it is.

Communication - I've learnt how, why and when to communicate with people for maximum effect. I enjoy getting people involved in a new project, encouraging ideas and input and working these into a plan that everyone takes a personal interest in. I feel there's a lot of good already being done within the council that deserves a wider audience, and there's always more that can be done with increased involvement from the community.

I want to be a councillor not because of a particular 'passion project' but because even in the last few years it's become clear that Garstang and the surrounding areas are expanding and changing. I want to understand the needs of residents and business owners, and play my part in steering the town successfully through this change by embracing new ideas but maintaining and building on our heritage. This is a great place to live and work and I would love to get stuck-in and help to ensure that this continues.

Alan Pearson

I, Alan Pearson, have worked in Garstang for 42 years as a Veterinary Surgeon

I was born and brought up in Pilling and Hambleton, attending school in Pilling and Poulton-le-Fylde. University education was at Edinburgh [Royal [Dick] Veterinary College and the University of Guelph in Canada.

I returned to England to join one of the existing Practices in Garstang and bought into Partnership in 1981 and was married in 1982.

My work as a Vet depends on me providing services to the local Community and as they have effectively provided my living I have always believed it was important to contribute to the fabric of the Community

I was elected as a School Governor at St Thomas' CE Primary School and have served for 28 years including 14 years as Chair.

I have been an active member of the PCC for St. Thomas' Church for 15 years

I am Chairman of the Management Committee for the Scout and Guide Headquarters on Kepple Lane since 2000

I am Chairman of Bowland Village Trust – a charity which cares for people with severe learning difficulties who live in their own homes and we currently run 10 properties in the Garstang area.

I am currently Chairman of Garstang in Bloom which is very much a community based operation to enhance our Town

I believe that I have a number of qualities which would make me suitable for a position as a Town Councillor

- Trustworthiness
- Experience with Public and Community Bodies
- An ethos to see my Community succeed and be a pleasant, safe and welcoming place.
- A track record of service within the Community
- Good listening, organizational and negotiating skills

Chris Wilkinson

I wish to express my interest in applying for the casual vacancy position on the Town Council and in my view I can demonstrate a strong record of commitment to public service.

In my previous career I enjoyed thirty one years of teaching in five schools in three very different local authorities. This has included fourteen years as the headteacher of a highly successful community comprehensive school.

This was then followed by a shorter period of four years working for a local borough council in a senior position managing both very large budgets and a wide range of different personnel.

Then as the final stage of my career I decided to become an independent education consultant which meant working as the qualified improvement partner to a large number of schools and delivering on the training of both governors and future school leaders.

I do feel that it is important to demonstrate that you are willing to make a contribution to your community outside of your working life. In the past this has meant for me an involvement with local cub and scout activities ; organising local youth football teams; participation in local church and community groups, active membership of parent teacher associations and numerous fund raising activities. I have always tried to demonstrate that I do care about where I live and to be both a responsible householder and a caring supportive neighbour and citizen.

Having moved to Garstang ten years ago I do love living here with the wide range of events and opportunities that are on offer. I am an active member of the Garstang and District Lions Club and through them have been involved in supporting a wide range of local events. I also enjoy regularly assisting with the local memory café serving teas and helping to organise a number of social activities. Also I have taken a lead role in our local residents group and represented their views on a wide range of issues.

I do believe that my communication and inter personal skills are good and I am well used to working within a team. My previous roles have often involved working to tight deadlines; dealing with quite sensitive and complex issues and always respecting confidentiality when required to do so.

Having familiarised myself with the requirements of this role I am keen to serve as a Town Councillor feeling that I have something still to offer in retirement.

I am quite sure that this role would involve fresh challenges and much future learning but, if successful, I would expect to bring experience, energy, commitment and passion to the position.