



# AGENDA ITEM 10

## Chichester City Council

### VACANCY IN CHICHESTER CITY (PARISH) NORTH WARD

Councillors will recall that the City Council granted an extension valid to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 to Councillor Catherine Harry who had been unable to attend meetings in the preceding six months due to ill health (Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 refers).

Sadly, Councillor Harry's ill health continues and as she has been unable to attend any meetings by the deadline set there is now a vacancy in Chichester City Council (Parish) North Ward due to non-attendance.

However, we have passed a key date of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022. This means the City Council are not obliged to fill this vacancy by co-option (see next paragraph). The 9<sup>th</sup> November date represents the six month 'count down' to the May 2023 elections when different procedures apply to the filling of casual vacancies.

The Council must still give public notice that there is a vacancy, but two options are before Councillors about the decision on filling the vacancy:-

- a. The Council decide not co-opt a new Councillor – presumably on the grounds of proximity to the May 2023 elections, or
- b. The Council decide to co-opt and the process of advertising for likely candidates to fill the vacancy takes place with the 'interview process' followed as happened when Councillor Chant was co-opted to membership of the City Council. A Special Meeting of the City Council in the New Year would be required for this.

An important point to make is that now we have passed the 9<sup>th</sup> November deadline, if the City Council decided to co-opt as in option b above, the public advertisement process **excludes** the requirement that a period is allowed for 10 local government electors to call an election. We move straight to advertising the 'call for candidates'.

Rodney Duggua  
Town Clerk  
5 December 2022