The Electoral Services Department of Braintree District Council has confirmed that the required 10 requests from parishioners for an election to be held to fill one Parish Council vacancy have not been received, and therefore the Parish Council has permission to fill the vacancies by co-option. The successful candidate will be a Councillor in their own right and no different from any other member; co-option is a legitimate form of election as part of the election process.

#### **Applications Invited:**

#### **Parish Councillor Vacancy Finchingfield Ward**

We are looking for a community-spirited local person to serve as Parish Councillor for the Finchingfield ward, and join the team in supporting Finchingfield parish.

The Council meets monthly on the last Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm in Finchingfield or Cornish Hall End Village Hall. Councillors are all volunteers. If you would like to know more about the role, please contact the clerk at clerk@finchingfield-pc.gov.uk or speak to any Parish Councillor.

An applicant's name must appear on the current electoral register **and/or** the applicant should during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within three miles of the parish **and/or** the applicant’s only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date is in the parish. The applicant must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor (see Appendix A or contact the Clerk)

Please send an email to clerk@finchingfield-pc.gov.uk to express your interest by:

**Friday 21 October 2022**

so that Parish Councillors can consider applications at the meeting to be held on

**Tuesday 25th October 2022**

At Cornish Hall End Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm

Candidates for co-option will be invited to attend the full council meeting on Tuesday 25 October 2022 and are welcome to make a short, maximum 5 minutes address to the Parish Council giving their reasons for wishing to be considered as a Parish Councillor.

clerk@finchingfield-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 07973 787962 6 October 2022

**Appendix A**

**Qualifications to be a Councillor**

A person is qualified to be elected or co-opted to be a Councillor if they are a British, Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen and on the day of election or co-option they are age 18 or over.

In addition, the person must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. on the relevant day and thereafter they continue to be on the electoral register for the parish, **and/or**
2. during the whole of the twelve months before that day they have owned or tenanted land or premises in the parish, **and/or**
3. during the whole of the twelve months before that day their principal or only place of work has been in the parish, **and/or**
4. during the whole of the twelve months before that day they have resided in the parish or within three miles (4.8km) of it.

Except for qualification 1, these qualifications then continue for the full term of office, until the next ordinary elections which will be in May 2023.

Certain people are disqualified from standing, and these include paid officers (including the Clerk) of the council, bankrupts and those subject to recent sentences of imprisonment.