

Swaffham Town Council

**NOTICE OF VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF
TOWN COUNCILLOR**

Notice is hereby given of a vacancy that exists for ONE Town Councillor to serve on the Swaffham Town Council following the resignation of Councillor Steven Allen.

In accordance with section 89(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 when the vacancy occurs within six months before the day on which the councillor whose office is vacant would regularly have retired, an election shall not be held under Section 89(1) of the above Act, and the vacancy will be filled at the next ordinary election of councillors on 2nd May 2019.

The Council may choose to fill the vacancy for the period until that election.

The Returning Officer
Breckland Council
Elizabeth House
Walpole Loke
Dereham
Norfolk NR19 1EE

Date: 20/11/18

Signed: R. Bower

Chairman/Clerk to Town Council

Address: TOWN HALL, 4 LONDON ST.

..... SWAFFHAM, NORFOLK

..... PE37 7DQ

Tel: 01760721781

8A Princes Street
Swaffham
PE37 7BP

The Town Clerk
Swaffham Town Council

26 November 2018

Dear Mr Bishop

Having attended at the Council Office today, in regard an application for the publicised vacancy for a Town Councillor, I was advised that I must submit a letter of interest. This letter confirms my application to serve.

Having lived in Swaffham for more than ten years, I have become quite well known to Councillors and a wide variety of residents, through support of local interests and charitable activities, both within Swaffham and across Norfolk.

Having been involved with and supported the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, there may now be an opportunity to support future implementations, locally in the short term and as it all unfolds during what is left of my lifetime.

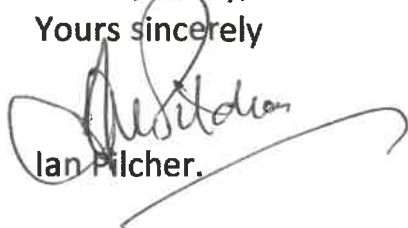
By way of introduction, I am a retired businessman, having been owner and Managing Director of a successful international Sports Management and Marketing Consultancy. I was privileged to count a number of the UK's biggest companies among my clients. The business continues successfully today.

In Swaffham, I have been involved with Rotary, Treasurer of Swaffham Golf Club and a member of the NarVOS bird club. My interests are very much in sport, leisure and tourism, but also include local charitable activities.

Perhaps I may be able to fill the Councillor vacancy, with credit and focussed contribution. I would welcome that opportunity. I understand that further deliberation may take place at the Council Meeting on 12th December, so I have put that date in my diary in readiness for response.

Please, kindly, confirm receipt of this letter

Yours sincerely



Ian Pilcher.

SWAFFHAM
TOWN COUNCIL

26 NOV 2018

RECEIVED

Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: Ian Pilcher <pilcherian@hotmail.com>
Sent: 26 November 2018 16:54
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Subject: Re: Councillor Vacancy

Thank you, Mr Bishop, for your comprehensive and informative response to my letter of enquiry.

I am very grateful to you for taking the time to ensure my clear understanding. I can see that the procedure is not a 'fait accompli' by any means! Please may I add a couple of comments.

My main reason for application to support Swaffham Council is motivated by my involvement extensively through the process and compilation of the Neighbourhood Plan, which has now gone forward to the next stages. It has been identified that some content, relating to more simple enhancements to quality of life, can be developed sooner than such as the key factors relating to Planning and Development of Housing. A positive example has been the advent of Park Runs. I am keen to encourage such action.

It is in my genes to do my duty as a Councillor, with family connections (in Surrey and London) going through the 20th century, (and even earlier!), but until recent times my health and my business demands (along with my own family responsibilities) have precluded me from being able to make a commitment due to time availability. Now, following on from the NP seems appropriate.

So, having made up my mind, I feel the need to get started before it is all too late. Indeed I am well aware of the Elections in May, BUT it seemed so valid to start as soon as possible to get some experience to see if I could/should pursue the responsibilities again at that time. Equally, it is important when becoming involved to know the schedules to try to avoid date clashes in future arrangements.

Of course all this assumes that my interest will be met with support among Councillors. Hopefully so. I look forward to any further information in due course. Meantime, I have noted the 'training introduction' that is available on 12th December, so I have put that date and time in my diary, with intent to attend.

Kind regards
Ian (Pilcher)

From: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 November 2018 14:27
To: Ian Pilcher
Subject: Councillor Vacancy

Dear Ian,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of interest in the Councillor Vacancy caused by a recent resignation of Councillor Steven Allen at the 14th November meeting.

I will just explain where we are with the Councillor Vacancy, as the resignation was unexpected, it was not on the published agenda in November. I can confirm that the notice of vacancy will be included on the 12th December agenda for Councillors to decide whether they wish to fill the vacancy by co-option. The legal position is that vacancies that occur within six months of an election (i.e. 2nd May 2019), the Council need only fill the vacancy at that election. It is therefore for the Town Council to decide whether to fill the vacancy for the interim period.

I requested that you state your interest in writing, as this is the normal procedure if the Council revert to a Co-option at the meeting. I am grateful to you for doing this, as there are still three possible outcomes. 1. The Council simply decide not to fill the vacancy until May 2019. 2. The council could decide to advertise the vacancy for a co-option, or 3. The Council could just decide to co-opt from those that have expressed an interest in the vacancy, having seen the public notice. In my 35 years in Local Government, I have experienced all three options, so I can't pre-empt what Councillors will decide.

I apologise for the long winded response, but I thought it only fair to inform you of the state of play. Incidentally, earlier on the 12th December, the Council are doing the first of two of their 'Do you want to be a Councillor' events starting at 5pm in the Council Chamber. It might be an idea for you to come along to this to find out some of the background information, as this is all about getting more candidates to stand for election in May 2019.

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk



Swaffham Town Council, Town Hall, 4 London Street, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7DQ
Tel **01760 722922** Fax **01760 720469** www.swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk



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Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: Elliott, Alex <Alex.Elliott@breckland.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 November 2018 13:44
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Cc: Daniels, Sue
Subject: RE: Swaffham Town Councillor resignation

Hi Richard,

Many thanks for the completed Notice of Vacancy.

In accordance with section 89(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 when the vacancy occurs within six months before the day on which the councillor whose office is vacant would regularly have retired, an election shall not be held under Section 89(1) of the above Act, **and the vacancy will be filled at the next ordinary election of councillors on 2nd May 2019.**

The Council may choose to fill the vacancy for the period until that election. Please advise us of the name and address of the person co-opted.

The qualifications and disqualifications for election and holding office as a member of a local authority, including reference to Parish Councils, are set out in Sections 79 (1) (2), 80 and 81 of the Local Government Act 1972. These apply equally, of course, to co-option and election.

As set out in Sections 52(3) and 81 of the Local Government Act 2000 any new member must make a declaration of acceptance of office incorporating an undertaking to abide by the Code of Conduct and complete a disclosure of their interests which will be held by the Monitoring Officer and available for public inspection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Kind regards

Alex

Alexandra Elliott | Electoral Services Officer | **Breckland Council**
DDI:01362 656222

alex.elliott@breckland.gov.uk | | www.breckland.gov.uk

**ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS 2017**
WINNER 

Breckland Council
Winner of Commercialism in the
Property Estate Award

From: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council [mailto:townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk]
Sent: 26 November 2018 13:28
To: Elliott, Alex
Subject: RE: Swaffham Town Councillor resignation

Hi Alex,

Please find attached notice of a Vacancy. I take it that the Council can choose to either fill the Vacancy at their next meeting by Co-option or decide not to fill the Vacancy. If you could confirm this is the correct procedure – thank you.

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk



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From: Elliott, Alex <Alex.Elliott@breckland.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 November 2018 16:07
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Swaffham Town Councillor resignation

Hello Richard,

Could you please confirm that the Notice of Vacancy has been displayed and return a copy please?

Kindest regards

Alex

Alexandra Elliott | Electoral Services Officer | **Breckland Council**
DDI:01362 656222

alex.elliott@breckland.gov.uk | | www.breckland.gov.uk



From: Elliott, Alex
Sent: 16 November 2018 14:43
To: 'Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council'
Cc: Daniels, Sue; Ringer, Rory
Subject: RE: Swaffham Town Councillor resignation

Hi Richard,

Many thanks for confirming the resignation of Councillor Steven Allen.

I will issue the Notice of Vacancy shortly.

Kindest regards

Alex

Alexandra Elliott | Electoral Services Officer | **Breckland Council**
DDI:01362 656222

alex.elliott@breckland.gov.uk | | www.breckland.gov.uk

**ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS 2017**
WINNER **MJ**

Breckland Council
Winner of Commercialism in the
Property Estate Award

From: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council [<mailto:townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>]
Sent: 15 November 2018 15:42
To: Elliott, Alex
Cc: Daniels, Sue; Ringer, Rory
Subject: RE: Swaffham Town Councillor resignation

Hi Alex,

I can now confirm that yesterday evening Cllr Steven Allen formally resigned from the Town Council. Do you have a formal notice we need to post in respect of the vacancy? The Town Council have not yet determined whether they wish to fill the vacancy by co-option, as this was not a scheduled agenda item, this decision will be taken at their meeting on 12th December.

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk



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From: Elliott, Alex <Alex.Elliott@breckland.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2018 10:14
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: Daniels, Sue <sue.daniels@breckland.gov.uk>; Ringer, Rory <Rory.Ringer@breckland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Swaffham Town Councillor resignation

Hello Richard,

Many thanks for your email and for explaining the situation.

If a councillor resigns after 7 November 2018 the council is required to give notice of the casual vacancy but an election is not held. The council may co-opt if it wishes or it can leave the unfilled vacancy to be filled at the Parish Elections on Thursday 2 May 2019.

Please let me know when the resignation is received and I will issue the Notice of Vacancy.

Kindest regards

Alex

Alexandra Elliott | Electoral Services Officer | **Breckland Council**
DDI:01362 656222

alex.elliott@breckland.gov.uk | | www.breckland.gov.uk

**ACHIEVEMENT
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WINNER **MJ**

Breckland Council
Winner of Commercialism in the
Property Estate Award

From: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council [<mailto:townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>]

Sent: 13 November 2018 09:57

To: Elliott, Alex

Subject: RE: Swaffham Town Councillor resignation

Hi Alex,

Thanks for your e-mail, I believe we may have a resignation on the way as the Councillor concerned has verbally stated his wish to do so, and I have advised him of the procedure. To date this has not been received and I am aware that he intends to attend the Council meeting tomorrow evening, it could be that he will do it at the meeting, or of course he might change his mind.

In terms of procedure moving forward, we are now less than six months from the Local Government Elections, do we have to formally advertise the vacancy should it occur?

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk



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From: Elliott, Alex <Alex.Elliott@breckland.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 November 2018 13:51

To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: Swaffham Town Councillor resignation

Importance: High

Hello Richard,

Could you please tell me if one of your councillors has resigned? It has been suggested that this may be the case.

Many thanks for your help.

Kindest regards

Alex

Alexandra Elliott | Electoral Services Officer | **Breckland Council**

DDI:01362 656222

alex.elliott@breckland.gov.uk | | www.breckland.gov.uk

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