

## **Blaby District Council Council**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 April 2025
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Appointments to Sapcote Parish Council</b> This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

### **1. What is this report about?**

- 1.1 To seek the Council's authority to make an Order appointing named persons to be Parish Councillors on a temporary basis. This will enable the work of the Parish Council to continue until such time as it has co-opted or elected sufficient Councillors to be quorate.

### **2. Recommendation(s) to Council**

- 2.1 That the Council agrees to make the Order attached at Appendix A to appoint individuals to Sapcote Parish Council until sufficient Councillors are appointed or elected to the Parish Council.

### **3. Reason for Decisions Recommended**

- 3.1 Additional persons are required to be appointed to the Sapcote Parish Council in order that it is quorate and so business can be conducted. This is needed until sufficient persons are co-opted or elected.

### **4. Matters to consider**

#### **4.1 Background**

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 the District Council were advised that a large number of parish councillors of Sapcote Parish Council had resigned. The Parish Council is, as a result unable to carry out its normal business as it is no longer quorate.

Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives district councils the power (not duty) to make a temporary appointment to fill vacancies until sufficient parish/town councillors are elected and take up office.

The quorum for any meeting of Sapcote Parish Council is four, there are currently two remaining Councillors on the Council, therefore at least two



additional parish councillors are needed. All would need to be in attendance at any meeting of the Parish Council and as such it is considered prudent to appoint three persons to offer some resilience.

If no appointment is made, the parish council will remain inquorate until the elections can be held in May 2025, when it is to be hoped that sufficient people will be nominated to the Parish Council for appointment or election. Whilst it is noted that there is a short period of time before the May election, business needs to be considered at the Parish Council, including dealing with the payment of invoices and staff. Further there is no guarantee that sufficient persons will be nominated to the Council as part of the Election process.

As a result it is considered appropriate to exercise discretion and appoint persons to the Parish Council to enable business to be conducted.

In terms of process, once agreed, two copies of a Section 91 Order must be sent to the Secretary of State, but there is no requirement that it be confirmed by the Secretary of State.

The district and county councillors within whose wards Sapcote Parish Council sits are Cllr Maggie Wright, Cllr Ben Taylor and Cllr Mike Shirley respectively. They have all agreed to step in on a temporary basis until elections or co-option achieve a quorate parish council.

A draft order is at Appendix A.

#### 4.2 Proposal(s)

That the Order at Appendix A is approved and Councillors Maggie Wright, Ben Taylor and Mike Shirley are appointed to the Sapcote Parish Council until such time that there is sufficient Councillors co-opted or elected to the Council.

#### 4.3 Relevant Consultations

Sapcote Parish Council Clerk

#### 4.4 Significant Issues

None

#### 4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

### 5. **Environmental impact**

None



**6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

6.1 There is no cost as a consequence of this report.

**7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Sapcote Parish Council are unable to conduct business	Appointment to ensure the Council is quorate

**8. Other options considered**

8.1 Waiting for the outcome of the election on May 1<sup>st</sup> is not considered prudent as decisions are required ahead of this date.

**9. Appendix**

9.1 Appendix A – Order

**10. Background paper(s)**

10.1 None

**11. Report author's contact details**

Gemma Dennis                                      Corporate Services Group Manager &  
Monitoring Officer  
Gemma.dennis@blaby.gov.uk