**CANDIDATES CONSENT TO CO-OPTION**

**PARISH OF GREAT YELDHAM**

I, (name in full).........................................................................................................................

of (home address in full) .....................................................................…...........................................

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

hereby consent to being co-opted for the above Parish.

I declare that I am qualified and that I will be qualified to be so co-opted by virtue of being on the day of co-option a Commonwealth citizen, a Citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of another Member State of the European Community, who has attained the age of 18 years and that

\*(a) I am registered as a local government elector for the above parish in respect of (qualifying address in full)

..................................................................................................................................…….....................…

........................................................................................and my electoral number is………………………; or

\*(b) I have during the whole of the twelve months preceding the date of my co-option occupied as owner or tenant the land or other premises in that Parish (description and address of land or premises)

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.............................................................................................................................; or

\*(c) My principal or only place of work during those twelve months has been in that Parish at (give address of place of work and, if appropriate, name of employer)

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\*(d) I have during the whole of those twelve months resided in that Parish or within 4.8 kilometers of it (give full address):

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I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief I am not disqualified from being elected by reason of any disqualification set out in Section 80 of the Local & Government Act 1972, a copy of which is included, and I do not hold a politically restricted post, within the meaning of Part I of the Local & Government and Housing Act 1989, under a local authority within the meaning of that Part.

Signed .........................................................…. Date .........................................................….

**Signed in my presence**

Signature of witness

……………………………………………………… Date …………………………………………..

Name and Address of Witness (CAPITAL LETTERS)

…………………………………………………………………………............................................................…………………….

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**\*Delete whichever is in appropriate.**

**CO-OPTION**

There are no rules regarding co-option of members. The Parish Council may choose who they like but the person must be qualified to have been a candidate (see extract below).

There are several methods of co-opting used by Councils but the most popular and used by this Council is one whereby the Council puts up a notice in various places, within the Parish, inviting anyone interested to send a written expression of interest to the Parish Council, c/o the Clerk, giving reasons for wishing to be a councillor; why he or she would like to be co-opted onto the Council**;** previous community / council experience; any other skills you can bring to the Council, your interests and recent career history.

All expressions of interest are then reported to and considered by councillors at a meeting of the full Council and if necessary, a vote taken by existing councillors to determine the successful applicant. In the event of there being an equal number of expressions of interest to the number of vacancies then applicants are co-opted directly.

Newly co-opted members are also required to complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**Qualifications for Candidature**

To be qualified to be elected a member of a parish council a person must be 18 years of age or over, and a British subject or citizen of the Republic of Ireland, and either:

(i) be a local government elector of the parish, or

(ii) have during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day on which he is nominated as a candidate

occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish; or

(iii) his principal or only place of work in the twelve months preceding the day on which he is nominated as a

candidate have been in the area of the parish; or

(iv) have resided either in the parish or within 3 miles thereof during the whole of the 12 months preceding the

day on which he is nominated as a candidate.

There are certain disqualification's for election, of which the main (see 5. 80 of the Local Government Act 1972) are -

(a) holding a paid office under the local authority;

(b) bankruptcy;

(c) having been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) of not less than three months,

without the potion of a fine during the five years preceding the election; and

(d) being disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices