



Councilor Resignations

Date: 24th September 2026

Author: Cllr Barney

Background

Fifteen Councilors presently serve on the Cowes Town Council. Since the Town Council elections in May 2025, four Councilors have tendered their resignation, representing one quarter of Councilors.

Tended resignations

Cllr Phil Sanders (South)	Official resignation	8 th Sept
Cllr Stuart Dodwell (Medina)	Official resignation	20 th May
Cllr Nina Swallow (Medina) (non attendance for 6 months)	Departure date	7 th May
Cllr Alison Carter (West)	Official resignation	29 th April

Replacement Costs

Replacing a Councilor generally involves an election. The last election cost Cowes Town Council £3,800.00 in external costs. The co-option process, whilst cheaper still requires considerable management time & cost

Proposal

The Town Clerk conducts a series of confidential interviews with previous and current Councilors to understand why the above Councilors choose to resign mid-term, and to ascertain what if anything needs to be done to retain current Councilors and thus prevent the use of community funds on future elections. Town Clerk to report findings at the October CTC meeting.