

# AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

**Meeting:** Electoral Review Committee

**Place:** Online Meeting

**Date:** Monday 12 July 2021

**Time:** 9.00 am

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The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 2 July 2021. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

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This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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8 **Area Board Review (Pages 3 - 8)**

To consider a request to change the name of Amesbury Area Board.

9 **Community Governance Reviews (Pages 9 - 14)**

To consider a report from the Director of Legal and Governance

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 8 July 2021
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**Wiltshire Council**

**Electoral Review Committee**

**12 July 2021**

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## **Renaming of Amesbury Area Board**

### **Purpose**

1. To consider the recommendation of the Amesbury Area Board that the Boards' name be changed to Stonehenge Area Board.
2. To prepare comments or recommendations for consideration by Full Council.

### **Background**

3. The names and details of Area Boards are set out in Part 3B Schedule 1 of the Constitution.
4. The terms of reference of the Electoral Review Committee state the it may make recommendations on the composition of Area Boards, following completion of an Electoral Review or Community Governance Review, 'or another reason', for determination by Full Council.
5. Following the Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council which was confirmed by Parliament in March 2020, the Committee undertook a review of the council's Area Board structure and made recommendations to Full Council, which determined the new arrangements at a meeting in November 2020.
6. This included amending the name of the Chippenham Area Board to the Chippenham and Villages Area Board, at the request of that Board.

### **Main Considerations**

7. At the request of some Members of Amesbury Area Board in November 2020 an agenda item was taken to consider and discuss the possibility of re-naming the Amesbury Area Board. This had been proposed in order to be more inclusive of the area represented and as a result of the boundary review changes. It was determined that the parishes should be consulted upon and councillors should discuss the matter further.
8. In December 2020 a survey was compiled, and after being approved by Amesbury Area Board Members the survey link was sent to all Amesbury Parishes and regular area board attendees. The survey was also advertised at the January meeting of the Area Board and ran until the end of January 2021. The results of this survey can be

seen at Appendix 1. There were 15 respondents, 11 of which preferred the name Stonehenge Area Board, which was the alternative option listed in the survey.

9. In March 2021 this was again discussed at the Area Board meeting but Members felt that as this was the last meeting of the 4 year Council term, it would appropriate for the new Area Board after the May elections to determine whether to support such a name change. A recommendation to consider and adopt the name Stonehenge Area Board was made to the new board.

10. In June 2021 at the first meeting of the Amesbury Area Board after the election the matter was considered, and it was resolved to recommend that the name of the Area Board be changed to Stonehenge Area Board as soon as possible.

11. The Committee is asked to consider the request and its reasoning, and if it considers it appropriate recommend the proposal to Full Council.

#### **Safeguarding Implications**

12. There are no safeguarding implications.

#### **Public Health Implications**

13. There are no public health implications.

#### **Procurement Implications**

14. There are no procurement implications.

#### **Risk Assessment**

15. There are no risk issues arising from this report.

#### **Equalities Implications**

16. There are no equalities implications.

#### **Environmental and Climate Change Implications**

17. There are no environmental implications.

#### **Workforce Implications**

18. There are no workforce implications.

#### **Financial Implications**

19. There are no financial implications.

#### **Legal Implications**

20. There are no legal implications. Naming of Area Boards is an administrative arrangement of Wiltshire Council.

## **Proposal**

21. That the Committee consider the request from Amesbury Area Board and whether to recommend Full Council change the name of the Board to Stonehenge Area Board.

## **Perry Holmes - Director of Legal and Governance**

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30 June 2021

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Results of Online Survey regarding the possible renaming of Amesbury Area Board

## **Background Papers**

None

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## Appendix 1

### Results of Online Survey regarding the possible renaming of Amesbury Area Board

	Status	Change?	Reason (no Change)	Preferred Option	Alternative	Reason (change)
1	Representative	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		Stonehenge is near the centre of the new area, it is a national monument and as such invokes a certain pride for the area. The area shouldn't be named after one town as it suggests the other towns and villages are not really included and an afterthought.
2	Representative	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		
3	Representative	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		It more accurately reflects the area it serves
4	Resident	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		It's a good name and we should recognise the importance of Stonehenge
5	Resident	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		
6	Representative	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		It is the identifier for the area which is known World wide while avoiding the suggestion that any single part of the community area has a lead role
7	Resident	No	The area surrounds Amesbury. Current name appropriate.			
8	Representative	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		It is a generic name which encompasses the whole area. Small villages on the

						outskirts will feel that they are included and it might encourage them to attend meetings
9	Representative	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		Stonehenge is in the centre of the new proposed area boundaries & the name would encompass all the surrounding villages such as ours - Netheravon
10	Representative	Yes		Alternative	Salisbury Plain South	Gives location information that is wider than the "Stonehenge" name implies. Also, new road works associated with Stonehenge bypass in the coming years may cause confusion.
11	Resident	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		Stonehenge is a well-known feature that many local people identify with, is reasonably central to the area and the name does not 'favour' any particular part of the area.
12	Resident	Yes		Alternative	Stonehenge Community Area Board	Provides a broad ranging description for the Town & Parish Councils, particularly those to the North, and West of Amesbury.
13	Representative	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		It apply to the whole area a lot better
14	Representative	Yes		Alternative	Avon and Till Valleys Area Board	No one lives at Stonehenge
15	Resident	Yes		Stonehenge Area Board		



## Wiltshire Council

### Electoral Review Committee

12 July 2021

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#### Community Governance Review 2019/20

##### Purpose

1. To consider proposed prioritisation of received requests for Community Governance Reviews.

##### Background

2. A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a process wherein a principal authority can adjust the governance arrangements of parishes within its council area. This can include amending the number of councillors or wards, the external boundaries, or even the creation/merger/abolition/grouping of entire parishes.
3. The Council is required to undertake reviews where it receives a valid petition, signed by the requisite number of electors. The Council may also undertake reviews at any time where it considers it appropriate to do so, for example where there have been changes in populations as a result of new developments, and in response to reasonable requests received from individuals, groups or parish councils themselves.
4. Where a Scheme is suggested by Wiltshire Council for review this would not mean a view has already been taken on the suitability of any potential change, only that the Council believes it necessary to undertake a review in order to establish whether a change is appropriate.
5. Following communication from the Committee, and subsequently, over 80 proposals or 'Schemes' were received in 2019. The Committee determined which areas should be reviewed in advance of the May 2021 elections at a meeting on 31 October 2019. A review commenced on 1 November 2019 and concluded with decisions of Full Council on 9 September 2020.

##### Main Considerations

6. 44 previous scheme requests have not yet been reviewed or withdrawn. Of those 44:
  - 14 involve changing councillor numbers or internal warding arrangements only;
  - 22 involve transferring land from one parish to another, and associated warding changes;
  - 7 involve the creation/merger/grouping or abolition of a parish.
  - 1 involves a name change only
7. Of the 22 requests which involve transfer of land, these range from small parcels of land with no electors, and others involve significant areas of land with large numbers of electors.

- 12 Of the 7 areas including merger/grouping/creation or abolition of a parish, 4 are related requests around Marlborough. Another is the case of a parish where there had been no candidates several elections and no detail of whom to contact about the situation, or for auditing matters. The other involved Calne Without, which was reviewed in 2019/20, with a council decision to defer and undertake a further review, involving all the surrounding parishes to enable consideration of all options.
- 13 Parishes were contacted in late 2020 and early 2021 to request that following the May 2021 elections parish councils confirm if they wished to proceed with the requests that had previously been submitted, or to update those requests. 16 parishes have responded as of 6 July 2021.
- 14 A list of current Schemes is set out at **Appendix A**, including whether the requesters have confirmed if they wish to proceed.

#### Prioritisation

- 15 When undertaking a CGR the Council is required to publish Terms of Reference specifying the area under review and other related matters.
- 16 A workshop was held for Committee members on 6 July 2019 to discuss submitted Schemes and options for any CGR process to assist with the scoping of the Terms of Reference taking into account priority of Schemes and resourcing capacity.
- 17 The Committee is therefore asked to indicate which areas it feels should be reviewed in the next CGR, to enable to preparation of terms of reference for its later approval and publication.

#### Next Steps

- 18 Once the areas are agreed draft terms of reference will be prepared for a future meeting, to agree the details and timescales of the next CGR.
- 19 As changing the name of a parish can also be undertaken through a much simpler and quicker process under S75 of the Local Government Act 1972, it is recommended it be agreed that any such requests received are undertaken through that process.

#### **Safeguarding Implications**

- 20 There are no safeguarding implications.

#### **Public Health Implications**

- 21 There are no public health implications.

#### **Procurement Implications**

- 22 There are no procurement implications.

#### **Equalities Implications**

- 23 There are no equalities implications.

#### **Environmental Implications**

- 24 There are no environmental implications.

## **Financial Implications**

- 25 Community Governance Reviews will require periods of appropriate public consultation which will incur additional resources, in particular in relation to the cost of physically mailing those affected in certain areas if appropriate.

## **Legal Implications**

- 26 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 gives the Council the power to undertake CGRs and sets out the criteria for such reviews. There is also statutory guidance on the conduct of such reviews that the Council would have to comply with.

## **Risks**

- 27 Whilst there is no obligation on the Council to carry out CGRs at a particular time (other than in response to a petition), failure to do so may lead to the governance arrangements in some areas being outdated and inappropriate to provide effective local governance for the area.

## **Options Considered**

- 28 The Committee has discretion on which schemes to take forward at what time.

## **Proposal**

- 29 To confirm areas to be included in the next Community Governance Review;
- 30 That any current or future requests to change the name of a parish be undertaken through S75 of the Local Government Act 1972, with the arrangements delegated to the Director of Legal and Governance after consultation with the Chairman.

## **Perry Holmes - Director of Legal and Governance**

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## **Appendices**

Appendix A – List of Schemes

## **Background Papers**

[Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#)

[Terms of Reference of the Electoral Review Committee](#)

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## Appendix A - List of Schemes

Scheme	Date	Parish affected	Suggested for Review by	Type of change	Confirmed post 2021
19	09/09/19	Heywood	Westbury Town Council	Transfer between parishes	No
20	09/09/19	Bratton	Westbury Town Council	Transfer between parishes	No
21	09/09/19	Heywood	Westbury Town Council	Transfer between parishes	No
22	09/09/19	Dilton Marsh	Westbury Town Council	Transfer between parishes	No
23	10/09/19	Box	Box Parish Council	Ward name	No
25	11/09/19	Warminster	Warminster Town Council	Change councillor numbers/wards	No
28	16/09/19	Figheldean	Netheravon Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	Yes
33	23/09/19	Nettleton/Castle Coombe	Grittleton Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
38	26/09/19	St Paul Malmesbury Without	St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council	warding	No
39	26/09/19	Malmesbury	St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
<del>40</del>	26/09/19	Calne Without	Petitioner	Creation of Parish	NA
<del>45</del>	30/09/19	Laverstock & Ford	Winterbourne Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
<del>46</del>	30/09/19	Firsdow	Winterbourne Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
<del>47</del>	30/09/19	Idmiston	Winterbourne Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
48	30/09/19	Durnford	Winterbourne Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
49	30/09/19	St Paul Malmesbury Without	Malmesbury Town Council	Transfer between parishes	Yes
50	30/09/19	Malmesbury	Malmesbury Town Council	Warding/cllr numbers	Yes
53	30/09/19	Fovant	Fovant Parish Council	Councillor Numbers	No
54	30/09/19	Donhead St Mary	Donhead St Mary Parish Council	Councillor Numbers	No
55	30/09/19	Preshute	Marlborough Town Council	Merger of Parish	Yes
56	30/09/19	Savernake	Marlborough Town Council	Merger of Parish	Yes
57	30/09/19	Marlborough	Marlborough Town Council	Warding	Yes
58	30/09/19	Unknown	Marlborough Town Council	Transfer between parishes	Yes
59	30/09/19	Yatton Keynell	Biddestone Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	Yes
61	03/10/19	Calne Without/Hilmarton	Calne Town Council	Transfer between parishes	NA
62	03/10/19	Calne Without	Calne Town Council	Transfer between parishes	NA
63	03/10/19	Calne Without	Calne Town Council	Transfer between parishes	NA

64	03/10/19	Calne Without	Calne Town Council	Transfer between parishes	NA
65	08/10/19	Tidworth	Ludgershall Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
66	08/10/19	Ludgershall	Ludgershall Parish Council	Warding	No
67	08/10/19	Ludgershall	Ludgershall Parish Council	Cllr Numbers	No
68	08/10/19	Grimstead	Grimstead Parish Council	Cllr Numbers	No
69	08/10/19	Grimstead	Grimstead Parish Council	Warding	No
70	10/10/19	Zeal	Mere Town Council	Transfer between parishes	Yes
71	18/10/19	Fyfield	Preshute Parish Council	Merger/Grouping	No
73	18/10/19	Preshute	Fyfield and West Overton Joint Parish Council	Merger/Grouping	No
78	28/10/19	Idmiston	Idmiston Parish Council	Cllr Numbers	No
79	28/10/19	Idmiston	Idmiston Parish Council	Warding	No
80	05/11/19	Westbury	Heywood Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
81	07/11/19	Castle Combe	Yatton Keynell Parish Council	Transfer between parishes	No
84	25/02/20	Beechingstoke	Wiltshire Council	Merge/Abolish parish	NA
85	24/09/20	Heywood	Westbury Town Council	Merge/Abolish parish	No
86	24/04/21	Salisbury	Former Chairman(Committee)	Anomaly correction	No
87	03/07/21	Biddestone	Biddestone Parish Council	Name Change	Yes