

Electoral Review Committee

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 2021 AT ONLINE MEETING.

Present:

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Paul Sample JP and Cllr Stuart Wheeler

1 **Election of Chairman 2021-2022**

On the nomination of Councillor Gavin Grant, seconded by Councillor Allison Bucknell, it was,

Resolved:

To elect Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

2 **Election of Vice-Chairman 2021-22**

On the nomination of Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling, seconded by Councillor Stuart Wheeler, it was,

Resolved:

To elect Councillor Gavin Grant as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3 **Apologies**

There were no apologies from members of the Committee.

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 November 2020 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

5 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

7 **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

8 **Area Board Review**

A report was received from the Director of Legal and Governance regarding a request from Amesbury Area Board to change its name to Stonehenge Area Board.

The Board had considered its name and considered a new name would be more appropriate and inclusive of areas within its remit. It had undertaken a survey of parishes and residents with limited but positive support for the proposal. Following the May 2021 election, the newly constituted Board had confirmed it wished to proceed with the request.

The Committee discussed the proposal and considered that the name change had local and Board support and its reasoning was sound. Accordingly, it was content to recommend to Council that the change be supported.

Resolved:

To recommend Council amend the name of Amesbury Area Board to Stonehenge Area Board, subject to necessary constitutional amendment.

9 **Community Governance Reviews**

A report was received from the Director of Legal and Governance regarding preparations for future Community Governance Reviews. Details were provided of the number of existing requests, noting that most were two years old and had not been reconfirmed by the requesting council following the May 2021 elections, when the composition of those councils may have changed.

The Committee discussed how the requests could be prioritised, considering urgency and significance of requests, as well as the time and resources required to undertake any review. It discussed the processes that might take place during any review, including public and partner consultation arrangements, and the most appropriate way to determine the updated view of requesting parishes.

It was considered that the most significant areas for review included Calne Without and its surroundings, Beechingstoke, and Malmesbury, with further details needed for some other requests. Draft terms of reference for a review would be produced for approval following additional discussions with the Committee members.

The Committee also discussed requests to change only the name of a parish.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was

Resolved:

1) That the request to change the name of Biddestone Parish Council, and any future name change requests, would be undertaken through S75 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2) That the following parishes be prioritised for a Community Governance Review:

**Calne Without and surrounding parishes
Beechingstoke and surrounding parishes
Malmesbury and St Paul Malmesbury Without**

With additional detail to be sought in relation to other requests ahead of consideration of draft terms of reference.

10 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 9.05 - 10.05 am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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