

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Electoral Review Committee**

**22 November 2023**

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#### **Parish Name Change Review**

##### **Purpose**

1. To consider proposals to change the name of the parish of Lea & Cleverton.

##### **Background**

2. Changing the name of a parish or parish council can be done through a Community Governance Review process in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
3. However, such a change may also be progressed under s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972.
4. As the latter would be a simpler process in terms of structure, consultation and decision, the Committee at its meeting on 21 September 2021 resolved that where a request was received solely regarding a parish name change, the s.75 process would be followed
5. This report relates to requests from the parish of Lea & Cleverton, which is located east of Malmesbury, within the Electoral Division of Brinkworth.

##### **Main Considerations**

6. Lea & Cleverton Parish Council requested that the name of the parish be changed to Lea, Garsdon, & Cleverton Parish Council. The reason for the request was:

*To properly represent the three habited areas that make up our parish*

7. In order to change the name of a parish, a decision would be required by Full Council, who would then notify the Secretary of State, Director General of the Ordnance Survey, and the Registrar General, along with a parish name change order.
8. There are no specific consultation requirements where a change of parish name is being considered under s.75, only proscribed notifications after the event as detailed above.
9. However, the Council must have reasonable grounds for making a change that has been proposed by a parish council. On this basis Lea & Cleverton Parish Council were informed on 19 October 2023 that an online survey had been set up to seek any local views, with a request this be circulated in the community. The Members of Malmesbury Area Board were also contacted on 23 October 2023. The council's webpage on reviews was updated to include the name change survey.
10. S.75 allows the Council to change the name of a parish at the request of a parish council (or parish meeting if there is no council). This means that the Council may only approve or not approve that suggested name, and cannot substitute some other

proposal. For instance, should a new suggestion arise as a result of a survey, unless the parish council had indicated formal consent for that alternative proposal.

11. 1 response was received to the parish council's proposal. This was in favour, stating the proposed name was more inclusive.

12. The Committee has recommended, and Council approved, name changes in the past where no responses were received.

### **Safeguarding Implications**

13. There are no safeguarding implications.

### **Public Health Implications**

14. There are no public health implications.

### **Procurement Implications**

15. There are no procurement implications.

### **Risk Assessment**

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

### **Equalities Implications**

17. There are no equalities implications.

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

18. There are no environmental implications.

### **Workforce Implications**

19. There are no workforce implications.

### **Financial Implications**

20. There are no financial implications.

### **Legal Implications**

21. This report is consistent with the requirements of s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Options**

22. The Committee may recommend that Full Council approve the proposed name changes for the parishes as listed, decline to make any recommendation to Full Council at this time, or seek consent of the parish council to recommend an alternative name to Full Council if appropriate.

### **Proposal**

23. To consider whether to recommend Full Council approve the following name changes:

- 1) The Parish of Lea & Cleverton be changed to the Parish of Lea, Garsdon, & Cleverton

**Perry Holmes – Director, Legal and Governance**

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**Appendices**

None

**Background Papers**

None