

Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

13 August 2020

Parish Name Change Review

Purpose

1. To consider proposals to change the names of three parishes.

Background

2. An email was sent to all parish councils on 12 July 2019 inviting expressions of interest for a Community Governance Review in their area. Further emails were sent as reminders.
3. In response some parishes requested that the name of their parish be changed. Although this is something which can be changed through a Community Governance Review, it is also able to be progressed under s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972.
4. As that would be a simpler process in terms of structure, consultation and decision, the Committee at its meeting on 31 October 2019 resolved that where a request was received solely regarding changing the name of a parish, these would be undertaken through the s.75 process. This amounted to three requests relating to the following parishes:
 - Cheverell Parva
 - Fittleton
 - Fyfield and West Overton (Joint Parish Council)

Main Considerations

5. 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.
6. 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 under Paragraph 5 above.
7. However, the Council must have reasonable grounds for making a change that has been proposed by a parish council. Therefore, a briefing note including details of a survey on the proposals from the parish councils listed under Paragraph 4 above was sent to all Wiltshire Council Members and parishes in the council area on 6 January 2020. An online survey was launched on the same date, which has remained open until 10 July 2020. Several reminder emails and were sent to the parish councils involved as well as mention in other briefing notes including on 6 May 2020.
8. 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), which 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.

Fittleton

9. Fittleton Parish Council requested that the name of the parish be changed to Fittleton cum Haxton. They stated the reason for the request was:

Fittleton Parish Council is made up of two hamlets, Fittleton and Haxton. The population of Haxton is larger than Fittleton and so Haxton residents feel very strongly that they would like to be included in the name of the Parish Council so that their hamlet is recognised.

10. 17 responses were received to the proposal of the parish council. 15 were in favour, with 2 against.

Fyfield and West Overton

11. Fyfield and West Overton, which is a joint parish council, requested that the name of the parish council be changed to Kennet Valley Parish Council. They stated the reason for the request was:

- 1) *Lockeridge's name is not included, the new name is more inclusive and in line with our village school and village hall, which both start with 'Kennet Valley'.*
- 2) *We are currently in exploratory discussions with Preshute Parish Council regarding a boundary change to incorporate Preshute into our Parish Council.*

12. 11 responses were received to the proposal of the parish council. 9 responses were in favour, with 2 against. Details of each response are included in **Appendix A**.

Cheverell Parva

13. Cheverell Parva Parish Council proposed the name of the parish be changed to Little Cheverell. They stated the reason for the request was:

Little Cheverell is used on road signs, maps, postal addresses and most departments of Wiltshire Council.

14. No responses were received to the proposal of the parish council.

Safeguarding Implications

15. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

16. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

17. There are no procurement implications.

Risk Assessment

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

Equalities Implications

19. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

20. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

21. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

22. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

23. This report is consistent with the requirements of s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972. In order for any name change proposal to be in place for the next elections in May 2021, a decision would need to be made by Full Council before the end of 2020.

Options

24. 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 councils as listed to recommend an alternative name to Full Council if appropriate.

Proposal

25. For the Committee to determine which parish name changes, if any, to recommend be adopted by Full Council.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Responses to s.75 parish name change survey

Background Papers

None