

Electoral Review Committee

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2022 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling (Chairman), Cllr Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Ashley O'Neill and Cllr Paul Oatway QPM

Also Present:

Cllr Derek Walters and Cllr Martin Smith

29 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Ian Thorn

It was also noted that Cllr Stuart Wheeler had joined the meeting remotely and would need to leave before the end, therefore he did not take part in a vote on any motions.

30 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 July 2022 were presented, it was,

Resolved:

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

31 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Gavin Grant noted that as he was also a member of Malmesbury Town Council and the Malmesbury Deputy Mayor, he would not take part in the discussion or vote during consideration of the Malmesbury and surrounding proposals, in his capacity as a Committee Member, but instead would speak and if appropriate answer any factual questions in his role as a Malmesbury Town Councillor.

32 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

33 **Public Participation**

No questions or statements had been received within the timeframe set out in the agenda.

The Chairman noted that public speakers would be invited to address the Sub-Committee at the start of each agenda item.

34 **Community Governance Review 2021/22**

Public Participation

Roger Budgen spoke on behalf of St Paul Malmesbury without Parish Council

David Briggs spoke on behalf of St Paul Malmesbury without Parish Council

Cllr Gavin Grant and Cllr Martin Smith also summarised their proposal regarding the boundary between Malmesbury and St Paul Malmesbury Without, and updated the Committee on the outcome of discussions held between the joint Malmesbury Town and St Paul Malmesbury without Parish Council working group which had not been able to reach a consensus.

Following a summary of the process to date and an update on received responses and submissions, the Committee considered and discussed the additional proposals as detailed in the report.

A proposal from Brokenborough Parish Council, regarding a change to the proposed boundary line around Hyam Farm was also discussed.

Brokenborough

The Committee discussed the reason behind the request, to consolidate the associated buildings and land of Hyam Farm together within one single parish, that being Brokenborough parish due to a historic connection and an access route.

The committee agreed to remain with its earlier recommendation to use the water course as the boundary line, as it was felt this was unlikely to change over time, whereas a farm and its associated land and buildings may be divided up in the future.

The Committee determined to confirm the part of Draft Recommendation 8 which related to Brokenborough.

Malmesbury Boundary Review

The Committee discussed the amended proposal submitted by Malmesbury Town Council (MTC) for a change to the boundary line to the south of Malmesbury Town and the separate proposal jointly submitted by Councillors Martin Smith and Gavin Grant, which included a smaller residential area to the south of the town and an industrial area containing an Aldi and a Garden Centre, to the north.

The Committee considered the reasoning provided by those making submissions against the statutory criteria. They also noted previous consultation responses from residents living in the areas in question and noted that almost all were in objection to a transfer into the town. They noted the many comments received regarding residents being well served by the governance arrangements provided by the parish council.

The committee determined to cease any further consideration of a boundary review for Malmesbury and concluded that the extensive work and the consultations already carried out, had not been able to reach a solution which would improve community cohesion or local governance, and accordingly withdrew its initial draft recommendation for the area.

Malmesbury Town Warding

The Committee discussed its previous proposal to amend the warding for Malmesbury Town, noting that the Town Council had been in support of increasing the warding to create a more even distribution, when considered as part of the earlier boundary review proposals.

The Committee determined to recommend an increase from two to four wards for the town with a total of 17 councillors and noted that further consultation would be required on the minor change to the ward boundaries before being determined at the next meeting.

Malmesbury St Paul without – un-warding

The Committee discussed the original request made by St Paul Malmesbury Without parish council, to remove the warding and retain 12 councillors.

The Committee determined to recommend that Malmesbury St Paul without be un-warded and have 12 councillors.

It was;

Resolved

- 1) To confirm that Council be proposed to approve the warding for Derry Hill & Studley.**
- 2) For a further additional consultation to take place on the warding of Malmesbury Town.**
- 3) To delegate to the Director, Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Chairman, the preparation of a detailed Final Recommendations document for consideration by Full Council**

35 **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 28 September 2022.

36 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 9:30 – 11:05am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Alexander of Democratic Services, direct line 01722 434560, e-mail lisa.alexander@wiltshire.gov.uk

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