

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

17 May 2022

Parish Name Change Review

Summary

To consider proposals to change the names of two parishes as recommended by the Electoral Review Committee.

Proposals

That Council:

- 1) Approve the name changes for the following parishes and parish councils:
 - a) Biddestone to be changed to Biddestone and Slaughterford;
 - b) Charlton to be changed to Charlton St Peter.

- 2) Authorise the Solicitor to the Council to make any necessary legal orders and notifications to enact the above changes.

Reason for Proposals

To reflect community interest and identity

Perry Holmes - Director Legal and Governance

Parish Name Change Review

Purpose

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

Background

2. Changing the name of a parish or parish council can be achieved through a Community Governance Review process in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. However, such a change may also be progressed under s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972 at request of the relevant Parish Council.
3. As the latter would be a simpler process in terms of structure, consultation and decision, the Electoral Review 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.
4. Full Council previously approved a number of s.75 parish name changes at its meeting on 9 September 2020.
5. This report relates to requests from the following parishes:

- Biddestone;
- Charlton.

Main Considerations

6. 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 or other means, unless the parish council had indicated formal consent for that alternative proposal Council could not approve it.
7. In order to change the name of a parish, a decision is required by Full Council, who would then notify the Secretary of State, Director General of the Ordnance Survey, and the Registrar General, along with copies of 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 under Paragraph 7 above.
9. However, the Council must have reasonable grounds for making a change that has been proposed by a parish council. In order to gather more information, online surveys were prepared from 12 November 2021 for Biddestone and 26 November 2021 for Charlton, both running until 31 December 2021.

10. Several reminder emails were sent to the parish councils involved to publicise the suggestion. The council's webpage on governance reviews was updated to include both name change surveys.

Biddestone

11. Biddestone Parish Council requested that the name of the parish be changed in order to become Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council. The reason for the request was:

Biddestone Parish consists of two villages, Biddestone village and the much smaller Slaughterford village, with outlying rural farms and cottages. For many years the parish council has unofficially called itself the Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council to reflect the fact that the residents of both villages are of equal importance. The Parish Council would now like to formally request the change of name from Biddestone Parish to Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish.

12. 18 responses were received to the parish council's proposal. 17 were in favour, with 1 against. Details are included at **Appendix A**.

Charlton

13. Charlton is located near Pewsey and is one of two parishes named Charlton in Wiltshire, with the other being located near Malmesbury. Charlton near Pewsey is currently represented by Charlton and Wilsford Parish Council.
14. Charlton has also been included in the separate and ongoing Community Governance Review due to an anomaly with its status with Wilsford as a joint parish council. This is where the two parishes have been treated as one entity for electoral purposes, when they should be electing parish councillors to each parish, who then sit on the same joint parish council. As part of that review the name could be changed as requested, however this would not take effect until May 2025, whereas an order under S.75 would enable a change to be made to the name of the parish in 2022.
15. The proposal from the Charlton and Wilsford Parish Council is to change the name of the parish of Charlton to 'Charlton St Peter', and in turn would then change the name of the parish council to 'Charlton St Peter and Wilsford Joint Parish Council'. This was for the following reason:

The reason for the suggestion is that this is the name widely used for Charlton and by which the parish is recognised, and how the parish council is referred to at present.
16. No responses were received on the online survey specifically regarding the name change. However, the survey on the wider Community Governance Review, which included confirming the joint parish council being called 'Charlton St Peter and Wilsford Joint Parish Council', received 8 responses, all in favour.
17. Additionally, Council has previously made changes to a parish name at request of a parish council even with limited responses, noting specific consultation is not a requirement. This was the parish of Cheverall Parva, where no responses were received to an online survey, as the Council was satisfied the reasoning offered and support of the parish council justified the change.

18. The Electoral Review Committee considered all the relevant information and requests at its meeting on 8 February 2022 and resolved to recommend Full Council approve them as requested.

19. The Committee agreed that the joint parish council should be called Charlton St Peter and Wilsford. This would be intended to be confirmed through the separate Community Governance Review process and was subject to consultation between 18 March to 5 May 2022, with a recommendation to Full Council to follow in due course.

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.

Risk Assessment

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

Equalities Implications

24. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

25. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

26. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

27. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

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

Options

29. Full Council may approve the proposed name changes for the parishes as listed or decline to approve any change. If it considers a different name would be appropriate for either parish, consent of the relevant Parish Council would need to be sought.

Proposal

30. That Council:

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- 2) Authorise the Solicitor to the Council to make any necessary legal orders and notifications to enact the above changes.

Perry Holmes - Director Legal and Governance

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29 April 2022

Appendices

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

Background Papers

None

Appendix A
Biddestone Survey

Comment	Status	Agree/Disagree	Reasons	Any other comments
1	Resident	Disagree	It's not broken, don't need to fix it.	What about Giddeahall?
2	Resident	Agree	This should have happened last century	No
3	Resident	Agree	It would give Slaughterford equal standing in the formal naming of the parish. The names of both villages are already used informally when referring to the parish.	Agree
4	Representative	Agree	I agree as Slaughterford is within the jurisdiction of Biddestone parish council, and changing to the proposed name offers clarity.	
5	Resident	Agree	Because the PC represents both villages	
6	Resident	Agree	I would like both villages to be recognised	I thought that was the name already
7	Resident	Agree	It will give parity to the residents of Slaughterford and Biddestone villages	
8	Resident	Agree	because the parish council includes Slaughterford and the new title will clearly show this	None
9	Resident	Agree		
10	Resident	Agree	Makes sense to be inclusive of both villages	
11	Resident	Agree	The Name change seems logical: and represents the reality	No
12	Resident	Agree	Its more inclusive and accurately represents the area covered	if the proposed boundary change between Yatton Keynell and Biddestone and Slaughterford goes ahead Giddea Hall will not be in the name of the PC
13	Interested Party	Agree	If the local community wish to have a name change then it should be supported by adjacent Parishes	Sensible proposal
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18	Resident	Agree	Because the Council is generally referred to as 'Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council' It is important to recognise the inclusion of Slaughterford in the parish	