

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

20 February 2024

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 to the following parishes and parish councils:
 - a) Luckington to be changed to Luckington and Alderton;
 - b) Lea & Cleverton to be changed to Lea, Garsdon, & Cleverton
- 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 identity and interests

Perry Holmes

Director – Legal and Governance

Parish Name Change Review

Purpose

1. To consider proposals to change the name of the parishes of Luckington, and 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 Luckington, which is located west of Malmesbury, within the Electoral Division of Sherston, and also to the parish of Lea & Cleverton, which is located east of Malmesbury, within the Electoral Division of Brinkworth.
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 another reason, unless the parish council had indicated formal consent for that alternative proposal it could not be approved through this process.

Main Considerations

7. Luckington Parish Council requested that the name of the parish be changed to Luckington and Alderton. It already informally refers to itself as Luckington and Alderton Parish Council, and indicated they had presumed this to be the formal name of the parish. The reason for the request was:

To more accurately reflect the communities served by the Parish Council, which has historically represented the two neighbouring villages.

8. 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.

9. 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.
10. 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. However, in each case an online survey was placed on the council's website. 1 response was received to the request relating to Lea & Cleverton, which was in support, stating the proposal was more inclusive.
11. It should be noted that the Committee has recommended, and Council approved, name changes in the past where no additional public responses were received beyond the request of the parish council, where the request was considered to be reasonable.

Safeguarding Implications

12. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

13. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

14. There are no procurement implications.

Risk Assessment

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

Equalities Implications

16. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

17. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

18. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

19. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

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

Options

21. 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

22. That Council:

1) Approve the name changes to the following parishes and parish councils:

- a) Luckington to be changed to Luckington and Alderton;
- b) Lea & Cleverton to be changed to Lea, Garsdon, & Cleverton

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

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Democracy Manager (Democratic Services), 01225 718504, kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None