

Electoral Review Committee

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2024 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Ashley O'Neill (Chairman), Cllr Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling and Cllr Allison Bucknell

19 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Jacqui Lay and Cllr Ernie Clark

The Committee noted that Councillor's Ian McLennan and Paul Oatway were in attendance virtually (non-voting).

20 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2024 were presented for consideration, it was;

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a correct record.

21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

22 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

23 **Public Participation**

No statements or questions were submitted.

24 **Community Governance Review 2023/24**

The Chairman presented a report on the consultation of the Additional Draft Recommendations agreed at the last meeting on 3 April 2024.

The Consultation ran from 10 April to 5 May relating to relating to internal boundaries in Melksham, and for the boundary at Southwick and North Bradley parishes.

For each recommendation the Chairman along with officers presented summaries of the responses to the consultation and issues that had been raised, before the Committee discussed the available options and determined what action to take.

Recommendation 13 – Melksham

Recommendation 13 was made following a request by Melksham Town Council to consider an anomaly in Coronation Road, where it appeared the opposite sides of the street were in different divisions.

The Draft Recommendation was to move the boundary to unify both sides of Coronation Road within one division. All residents proposed to move from one Melksham Town ward to another were written to directly.

No responses to the consultation were received, however Melksham Town Council had requested the review.

The Committee agreed to make a Final Recommendation in line with the draft proposal.

Recommendation 14 North Bradley and Southwick

Recommendation 14 was made following a request by North Bradley Parish Council to consider an anomaly relating to the boundary line between North Bradley and Southwick parishes, around the areas of Scotland and Ireland which appeared to run through the middle of the settlement.

Both parish councils were consulted and all of the residents in the area currently divided between Southwick and North Bradley were written to on two occasions.

In total, 3 responses were received, one from a resident in Southwick who agreed with the proposal, one from North Bradley Parish Council, also in agreement and a further representation arguing the Committee should defer making a recommendation at this time, and undertake a fuller review at a later date, noting in particular the impact of recent planning appeal decisions.

The Committee was satisfied the recommendation was in accordance with the statutory criteria, and that if there were any late objections these could be raised at Full Council. It considered the identified anomaly could be addressed even if a fuller review were to take place on other issues in future years.

At close of discussion, it was;

Resolved:

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, and/or preparation of any Additional Draft Recommendations for consultation and the details of that consultation.

25 **Date of the Next Meeting**

If a future meeting was required, the date was confirmed as 26 June 2024.

26 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 2.20 pm)

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