

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

9 September 2020

Parish Name Change Review

Summary

To consider proposals to change the names of three parishes or parish councils.

Proposals

That Council:

- 1) Approve the name changes for the following parishes and parish councils:**
 - a) Fittleton to be changed to Fittleton cum Haxton;**
 - b) Fyfield and West Overton Parish Council to be changed to Kennet Valley Parish Council.**
 - c) Cheverell Parva to be changed to Little Cheverell.**

- 2) To 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

Ian Gibbons, Director of Legal and Governance

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

9 September 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 Electoral Review 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. Should a new suggestion arise as a result of a survey or other reason, unless

the parish council has indicated formal consent for that alternative proposal it cannot be approved.

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.

11. At its meeting on 13 August 2020 the Electoral Review Committee therefore agreed to recommend the name of the parish of Fittleton be changed as requested.

Fyfield and West Overton

12. 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.*

13. 11 responses were received to the proposal of the parish council. 9 responses were in favour, with 2 against.

14. At its meeting on 13 August 2020 the Electoral Review Committee therefore agreed to recommend the name of the joint parish council be changed as requested.

Cheverell Parva

15. 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.

16. No responses were received to the proposal of the parish council. Notwithstanding this, the Electoral Review Committee at its meeting on 13 August 2020 agreed to recommend changing the name of the parish as it accepted the reasoning and evidence that the parish was commonly known as Little Cheverell and this justified formally amending the name accordingly.

Safeguarding Implications

17. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

18. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

19. There are no procurement implications.

Risk Assessment

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

Equalities Implications

21. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

22. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

23. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

24. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

25. 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 before the end of 2020.

Options

26. Full Council may determine to approve or disapprove of any or all of the proposed parish name changes.

Proposal

27. That Council:

- 1) Approve the name changes for the following parishes and parish councils:
 - a) Fittleton to be changed to Fittleton cum Haxton;
 - b) Fyfield and West Overton Parish Council to be changed to Kennet Valley Parish Council;
 - c) Cheverell Parva to be changed to Little Cheverell.
- 2) To authorise the Solicitor to the Council to make any necessary legal orders and notifications to enact the above changes.

Ian Gibbons - Director of Legal and Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Senior Democratic Services Officer, 01225 718504,
kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices

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

Background Papers

None