
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held virtually via Skype on Wednesday, 28 October 2020 from 5.00pm - 5.15pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Mike Baldock (Vice-Chairman), Angela Harrison, Ken Ingleton, Denise Knights, Richard Palmer, David Simmons, Roger Truelove (Chairman), Mike Whiting and Corrie Woodford.

OFFICERS PRESENT: David Clifford, Ryan Miles and Jo Millard.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Steve Davey, Mike Dendor, Tim Gibson, Elliott Jayes and Ken Rowles.

204 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 October 2020 (Minute Nos. 150 - 152) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

205 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

206 NEW POLLING DISTRICT FOR TEYNHAM AND LYNSTED WARD (GREAT EASTHALL TONGE AREA)

The Leader introduced the report which set out the proposals to set up a new polling district for Teynham and Lynsted Ward. The Head of Policy, Communications and Customer Services explained that, in this case, new housing development cut across ward boundaries and the proposal would assist residents to vote locally. He added that there would possibly be a Community Governance Review in 2022 to consider more detailed changes to parish boundaries.

A Member supported the recommendation but asked for clarity on the number of electors in individual polling districts. The Head of Policy, Communications and Customer Services agreed to find out.

In the discussion that followed Members raised points including:

- Clarification was needed that the boundary line on page 7 was accurate;
- fully supported for recommendation;
- concern over changing the historic boundary line;
- suggested some minor changes to the boundary line that could create a better division, but could be considered at the time of the next Community Governance Review; and
- the proposal was sensible and gave easier access for residents to vote.

In response, the Head of Policy, Communications and Customer Services advised that the map on page 7 was accurate and the proposal was for the polling district, not the parish boundary. He added that the Community Governance Review was a

large scale project and Members could give their detailed views and suggestions at the time of the review. The Leader reminded Members that the proposal was to agree the principle.

The Head of Policy, Communications and Customer Services said that, if agreed at Full Council on 11 November 2020, the new polling district could be published in time for the new electoral register on 1 December 2020.

Recommended:

(1) That a new polling district is set up in the Teynham & Lynsted ward (Tonge Parish area) to allow electors to vote at Lakeview Village Hall on the Great Easthall Estate, Murston.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel