

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee of South Norfolk District Council held on 25 November 2020 at 10:00am.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: K Kiddie (Chairman), D Elmer (Vice Chairman), V Clifford-Jackson, F Ellis, J Fuller and S Ridley

Apologies: Councillor: D Burrill and J Rowe

Other Members Present: Councillor: M Dewsbury

Officers in Attendance: Assistant Director of Governance and Business Support (E Hodds), the Electoral Services Manager (J Tovee-Galey) and the Governance Manager (L Mockford).

36. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr F Ellis declared an 'other' interest as the District Councillor for Saxlingham Nethergate.

37. MINUTES

The minutes of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee held on 4 September 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

38. SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE POLLING STATION – DECISION OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION IN RESPECT OF APPEAL

The Electoral Services Manager presented her report, outlining the Electoral Commission's decision in respect of past polling arrangements in Saxlingham Nethergate.

The Committee discussed the report and the decision of the Electoral Commission. They acknowledged that mistakes were made in this situation. The Panel noted that

lessons had been learnt from these mistakes and that the recommendations of this report allows the Council flexibility to put measures in place to avoid a recurrence.

A vote was taken and it was then

RESOLVED:

That if a polling place needs to be moved, a decision in respect of an alternative polling place in the polling district will be made in consultation with the relevant local member(s) and parish council(s).

39. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr J Fuller advised the Committee of correspondence he had received from Mr Flowerdew requesting a boundary review at Costessey. The Electoral Services Manager advised Members that the Council would only carry out a boundary review under 2 circumstances, those being 1) if there was a service demand for a review, as Norfolk County Council already have a review ongoing there is no service need for one; or 2) if a valid petition was submitted to the Council, the Council would need to perform a service review within 1 year.

Members noted the concerns raised by Mr Flowerdew and also the need to follow the Councils procedures surrounding this and it was suggested that the Chairman of the Committee would write to Mr Flowerdew outlining the Council's position and the provide information on any actions he could take.

Members highlighted the implications of the May 2021 in terms of the potential difficulties maintaining social distancing and enquired whether any guidance would be circulated to Members. The Assistant Director of Governance and Business Support advised Members that planning for the May 2021 elections had begun, with officers assessing how to effectively and safely manage the election and what extra resources would be required by the Elections team. She assured Members that updates would be provided through the Members Bulletin.

(The meeting closed at 10:25 am)

Chairman