

ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on 4 September 2019 at 10:00am.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: K Kiddie (Chairman), D Burrill, F Ellis, D Elmer, S Ridley and J Rowe

Apologies: Councillor: J Fuller

Other Members Present: Councillor: J Easter

Officers in Attendance: The Managing Director (T Holden), the Electoral Services Manager (J Tovee-Galey) and the Electoral Services Officer (N Tullock).

One member of the public was also in attendance.

34. MINUTES

The minutes of the Electoral Arrangements Review Committee held on 14 August 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Regarding minute 31, it was suggested and noted that members should be notified when their own wards were being considered for future Community Governance Reviews.

35. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS 2019

The Electoral Services Manager presented her report, advising members that although the amendment of some parish boundaries by the Community Governance Review had resulted in the need to carry out an interim review of polling districts and polling places in 2018, this had been undertaken on the basis that a full review would take place in 2019.

The Committee was advised that the full review had concluded that there would be no meaningful benefit in changing any of the polling districts but that changes should be made to a limited number of polling places.

Members turned to Appendix 1 of the report and considered each of the recommended changes to polling places. For the following polling places, the Committee agreed that the proposals stated in the report should be endorsed, for the reasons detailed at Appendix 1:

KE1 – Parish of Deopham
WA1 – Parish of Wymondham (Central East)
GT1 – Parish of Ashwellthorpe and Fundenhall
ME1 – Parish of Flordon
HE1 – Parish of Ellingham
HK1 – Parish of Kirby Cane
ET1 – Parish of Diss (East)
BF1 – Parish of Burston and Shimpling
CE1 – Parish of Aslacton
UJ1 – Parish of Thurlton
TF1 – Parish of Saxlingham Nethergate

For SS1 – Parish of Long Stratton, the Electoral Services Manager advised that since the report had been published, she had been informed that the Long Stratton Methodist Church was up for sale and therefore recommended that Long Stratton Leisure Centre should remain as the polling place until the new pavilion in the town had been completed. In response to a member's suggestion that Long Stratton Village Hall might be a more suitable alternative venue, officers advised that they had considered this premises but felt this would impact the flow of traffic along the A140 and that a high volume of cars using the single track to the village hall's car park would be impractical and potentially dangerous. Members agreed that it would be sensible to retain the leisure centre as the designated polling place until the new pavilion was available. The Committee was reassured that every effort would be made to ensure the issues encountered with the turnstiles at the leisure centre did not reoccur and it was suggested and agreed that signage be displayed at the leisure centre to make clear to voters that they were permitted to enter the premises without needing to pay.

The Committee considered the remaining polling places which officers had proposed to retain, and it was agreed, for the reasons detailed in the report, that these should remain unchanged. In response to a member's suggestion that there were future plans for a new community centre to be built on Lodge Farm which might become a potential polling place for NH1 – Parish of Costessey (Lodge Farm), officers agreed that they would look into the possibility of this in the future, once more details were known.

The Committee briefly discussed the delegation of authority to the Returning Officer to designate alternative polling places in the case of emergencies and members agreed that this was essential.

It was then

RESOLVED:

1. that the polling districts remain unchanged;
2. that polling places be amended as indicated in Appendix 1, with the exception of SS1 – Parish of Long Stratton where the polling place should remain unchanged until the new pavilion becomes available as a suitable venue;

and

3. that the Returning Officer retains delegated authority to designate alternative polling places in emergencies.

(The meeting closed at 10:39 am)

Chairman