

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 6.00 pm in Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors R Sloan (Chair), K Blundell, S Davies, A Eade, I Fletcher, A McClements and R Overton

IN ATTENDANCE: P Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager) and P Smith (Democratic Services Team Leader).

BRC-18 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

BRC-19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

BRC-20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

BRC-21 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – HADLEY & LEEGOMERY PARISH WARDING

The Committee received the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services concerning a request from Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council for a Community Governance Review to make adjustments to its ward boundaries.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that, following the last review of warding arrangements in Hadley & Leegomery Parish in 2009, there had been an error in drawing the boundary between the Hadley Castle and Leegomery wards, resulting in 430 electors in the Haybridge Road area being included in Leegomery ward when they should have been in Hadley Castle. Unfortunately, this anomaly had been incorporated into the recent Electoral Review for Telford & Wrekin by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The LGBCE had been approached to see if their final recommendations for Hadley & Leegomery could be amended to reflect the correct boundary, but it appeared that the LGBCE did not have powers to amend its final recommendations. Following discussions with the Parish Council, it was proposed that the best way forward to resolve the situation was to instigate a Community Governance Review. The request to restore the boundaries agreed following the 2009 Review in order to correct the error had been received, and the Council was required by law to conduct a Community Governance Review.

In conducting the Review, the Council had to be mindful of the relevant legislation and guidance, but, because of the particular circumstances, it was proposed that the timetable and process for the Review be as simple and straightforward as possible. The first stage was to draw up a Terms of Reference document, a draft of which was appended to the report. The document provided information on the warding and present electoral arrangements, the legislative background, the consultation process to be followed and guidance on how consultees should approach the key issues. There would be a 6 week consultation period but, in order to facilitate the process, a Draft Proposals document had already been drawn up, and this was appended to the report. It was proposed that the Final Recommendations would be considered in June/July 2014.

During the ensuing discussion, the Chair advised that there had been an amicable meeting with the Parish Council, and the clear purpose of the exercise was to put right an anomaly with the current boundary between the Hadley Castle and Leegomery wards. In response to a question about what other options might be available, the Democratic Services Manager advised that the main factor would be the numbers of electors within each ward.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Terms of Reference document for the Review, as shown at Annex 2 of the report, be adopted and published;**
- (b) that the Draft Proposals document, as shown at Annex 3 of the report, be adopted and published;**
- (c) that the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services be appointed as the “Proper Officer” for the purposes of the Review.**

The meeting ended at 6.13 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: