

## **BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 4.45pm in Meeting Room 2.3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Addenbrooke House, Telford**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Overton (Chair), E Carter, I Fletcher and P Watling

**IN ATTENDANCE:** J Eatough (Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services), P Griffiths (Democratic Services Manager) and J Clarke (Democratic Services Support Officer)

#### **BRC-6      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **BRC-7      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors K Blundell, A McClements and R Sloan.

#### **BRC-8      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **BRC-9      REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The Committee received the report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & People Services which was tabled together with pack of background information which contained details of polling districts and polling stations listed by number and relevant maps.

A review was undertaken every 4 years with the current review due to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015. The report requested that the Democratic Services Manager be given delegated authority to commence the public consultation and publish the Notice of Review. The timetable for the review was as follows:

Notice of Start of Review	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
Council publishes the Returning Officer's Proposals	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
Consultation on the proposals ends	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
Further report to Boundary Review Committee	Before end January 2015
Arrangements come into force at the publication of the next Revised Register of Electors	Between 6 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2015

There were 30 Borough Wards as recommended by the LBGCE and the Borough Boundary Review maps showed the polling districts and polling stations. It had been necessary to send some voters out of area to vote, but this had been unavoidable. The Committee were asked to note that Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton Parish Council would become separate parishes of:

- Donnington & Muxton
- Lilleshall

The 2015 Elections would include:

- Parliamentary
- Borough
- Parish

There were some 90 polling districts which involved voting in the same parliamentary election and borough election but in some cases different parish elections.

A question was raised as to whether there would be a review of the Parish/Town Councils in Newport due to its expansion and the possible imbalance of population. This may happen in the future but not as a result of this review.

The polling stations were required to have no more than 2,500 electors to each ballot box. Where this figure was higher, the polling stations would be double-boxed.

The Committee considered each polling district as follows:

#### Admaston and Bratton Ward

- The Ward now had different letters – WAA
- The voters would continue to vote at Admaston House

#### Apley Castle

- This ward shared a border with Hadley & Leegomery
- Boundary had been amended
- Polling station now in Hadley & Leegomery by a matter of yards which meant an out of ward polling station

#### Arleston

- This ward had a small transfer of electors
- Polling arrangements remained the same
- Wellington Town Council – Arleston Ward

#### Brookside

- This ward had transferred Holmer Lake to The Nedge Ward
- Voting would take place in the refurbished Community Centre

### Church Aston & Lilleshall

- Voting arrangements remain unchanged

### Dawley and Aqueduct

- Renamed Dawley Magna
- 3 Councillors
- Polling Station needed to be agreed

Cllr Watling suggested that there may be possible to use the Sports Hall in the Southall School as this is separated from the main school buildings. Cllr Watling would contact the School and submit a formal response in writing to the consultation.

### Donnington

- There had been an exchange of voters in this Ward
- Humbers Section – Service voters possibly registered elsewhere
- Voting at Lifelong Learning Centre
- Dual polling station as there were large numbers of voters

### Dothill

- No changes
- Polling Station not ideal
- 2 suggestions came forward for Dothill Primary School or the Sports Hall at the Charlton School (following the School's closure in 2015) as this would remain open as a community facility. It was suggested that these may be considered in future years.

### Edgmond and Ercall Magna

- 2 member ward
- Voting arrangements remained unchanged

### Kynnersley/Preston

- Not Parished areas
- Preston/Eyton hold Parish meetings once every year – no elections

### Ercall

- Ercall Parish of Wellington Town Council
- Voting at Red Lion Annexe – no changes

### Hadley & Leegomery

- Voting arrangements remain unchanged
- Portacabin – suggestion that it was moved to the car park which was central to the whole ward or liaison with School to have it placed there

### Haygate

- Voting arrangements remain unchanged

### Horsehay & Lightmoor

- The Ward remained unchanged
- Voters in different Parish Wards
- Horsehay – cross-constituency wards
- A complex election for this area
- A suggestion came forward for Lawley Parish Council Offices be used as a polling station for THL – this would be investigated

### Ironbridge Gorge

- Changed had been made to the letters – now TIH
- Roberts Road and Hillside had been transferred
- Abraham Darby had now been moved into The Gorge Area
- Hilltop Electors to vote in Abraham Darby

### Ketley & Overdale

- 3 Member Ward
- Pressure on the number of boxes to Dawley Baptist Church
- A suggestion came forward of the TA Centre - this would be investigated

### Madeley and Sutton Hill

- Madeley Rest Room would be used for voting purposes
- TMD area could use the Woodlands Primary School
- Issues would be a high number of electors voting at a new polling station

### Malinslee and Dawley Bank

- Polling Stations – Dawley Baptist Church/George Chetwood Court/Old Park

### Muxton

- Electors at the north tip of the polling area will vote in Muxton Community Centre, together with Service Voters – these voters previously voted at Turreff Hall
- Other voters will go to the nursery in Lilleshall

### Newport

- 4 Wards have now been split into 2 Wards - North and West and South and East
- These Wards have gone from 4 single member ward to 2 two member wards
- The North and West Ward will be voting in the Parish Church Room

- The South and East Ward will be voting in Newport Bowling Club

### Oakengates and Ketley Bank

- This Ward crosses two Parliamentary constituencies
- Difficulties with polling station at Trench Lock – Telford Motor Auctions had been approached and asked for assistance
- Pressure on the number of boxes at United Church – solutions were sought

### Park Ward

- Voting currently took place at St Patricks School.
- A suggestion came forward to vote alternately with Wrekin View
- The Admaston Tuition Centre was suggested as an alternative polling station as this sat next to the Wrekin View School within Park Ward and was currently an empty Council building – this would be investigated

### Priorslee

- Some changes had taken place within the Ward
- TPW to vote in the Portacabin on Johnston Close
- TPZ and TPG to vote at the St Georges Sports Ground
- The Lakeside Plant Centre had previously been a good venue as a polling station

### Shawbirch

- Voting arrangements remain unchanged

### St Georges

- Polling Stations at the Portacabin / Sports and Social Club/ Parish Council Offices

### The Nedge

- Holmer Lake area had been transferred from Brookside
- Polling Station to be either Holmer Lake School or The Sambrook Centre (previously Progress House)

### Woodside

- Polling Stations will be double boxed for this Ward

### Wrockwardine

- Not vast numbers of electors in this Ward
- WWL to vote in Lawley Community Centre
- Other voters to go to Rodington Village Hall

Wrockwardine Wood and Trench

- Voting arrangements remain unchanged

It was suggested that the next meeting of the Boundary Review Committee be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, time and venue to be confirmed, to coincide with the close of the consultation period on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015. It was expected that the final Scheme could be presented to the Committee on this date.

**RESOLVED** – that delegated authority to the Officers to commence the public consultation and to publicise the Notice of Review be agreed.

The meeting ended at 5.47 p.m.

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....