Minutes

of a meeting of the

Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee

held on Tuesday 22 October 2019 at 6.30 pm
Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Ron Batstone (Chair), Sarah Medley (Vice-Chair), Alison Jenner, Mike Pighills, Max Thompson and Janet Shelley

Officers: Susan Baker, Steven Corrigan and Margaret Reed

Also present: Neil Fawcett, Cabinet member for legal and democratic

Number of members of the public: 0

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Paul Barrow submitted an apology for absence with Councillor Max Thompson attending as his substitute.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2018 as a correct record and agree that the chair signs them as such.

3. Declarations of interest

None.

4. Urgent business and chair's announcements

None.

5. Public participation

No members of the public had registered to address the committee.

6. Report of the Returning Officer on the delivery of the May 2019 district and parish elections

The committee considered the report of the returning officer on the delivery of the May 2019 Vale of White Horse District Council elections and parish council elections for the Vale area and set out a number of action points.

In response to questions, the committee was advised that the delivery of the elections was a priority for the council and there was therefore an expectation that services across the council would provide support. There would have been no impact on the delivery of other council services to customers. The timetable and process for postal vote applications is governed by national legislation. It was therefore not possible to amend a person's choice to vote by postal vote after the statutory deadline to take account of, for example, the non-receipt of a postal vote. However, the returning officer undertook to work with Communications to further improve the publication of deadline dates and anticipated posting dates. Officers would discuss further options for recruiting staff for election duties via social media including LinkedIn.

The committee welcomed the report and agreed that the elections had run smoothly. The committee further endorsed the action points set out in paragraph 31 of the report.

RESOLVED: to

1. note the report of the returning officer on the delivery of the May 2019 district and parish elections to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 22 October 2019;
2. endorse the action points in paragraph 31 of the report of the returning officer to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 22 October 2019.

7. Polling district and polling places review

The committee considered the report of the head of legal and democratic on proposals for polling districts and polling places following a periodic review required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

The committee was advised of a late representation from Charney Bassett Parish Council which endorsed the continued use of the Village Hall as a polling place. The committee was further advised of an error in appendix C of the report. The polling place for polling district SAC1 should be the Boundary Park Pavilion and not Harwell Village Hall.

In response to a comment from a committee member officers confirmed that Denman College in Marcham would be considered as an alternative polling place if the designated polling place is unavailable.

The committee noted that the arrangements had worked well in recent elections.

RESOLVED: to

1. note the consultation responses and the officer comments set out in appendix A of the report of the head of legal and democratic to the meeting of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 22 October 2019;
2. note the Acting Returning Officer's comments attached at appendix B of the report of the head of legal and democratic to the meeting of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 22 October 2019;
3. approve the schedule of polling districts and polling places attached to these minutes;
4. authorise the head of legal and democratic, acting in her capacity as the council's returning officer, to make changes to polling districts and polling places where circumstances dictate that this is desirable, having first consulted with members of the committee and the local councillor(s).

8. District wide community governance review

The committee considered a proposal, set out on the agenda, to commence a district wide community governance review in Spring 2020 which would allow for any changes to be implemented for the 2023 elections.

Officers confirmed that the Great Western Park Residents' Association would be included as a consultee during the review.

RESOLVED: to request that officers submit a timetable for a community governance review to the committee for a review to commence in Spring 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Appendix C

Polling District Reference	Parish/Parish Ward/Polling District	District Ward	Proposed Polling Place	Comments	
XAA1	Abingdon No.1 (Caldecott)	Abingdon Caldecott	Preston Road Community Centre		
XAA2	Abingdon No.2 (Caldecott)	Abingdon Caldecott	St. Johns Ambulance HQ, Caldcott Road		
XAA3	Abingdon No.3 (Caldecott)	Abingdon Caldecott	Trinity Hall , Conduit Road, Abingdon	Polling place is in adjacent parish ward	
XAB1	Abingdon No.4 (Fitzharis Ock)	Abingdon Fitzharris	Stonewater (Jephson Common Room), Bridges Close		
XAB2	Abingdon No.5 (Fitzharris Ock)	Abingdon Fitzharris	Trinity Hall , Conduit Road, Abingdon		
XAB3	Abingdon No.6 (Fitzharris Wildmoor)	Abingdon Fitzharris	Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon	Polling place is in adjacent parish ward	
XAC1	Abingdon No.7 (Abbey)	Abingdon Abbey Northcourt	The Guildhall, Abbey Close, Abingdon		
XAC2	Abingdon No.8 (Northcourt)	Abingdon Abbey Northcourt	Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon		
XAC3	Abingdon No.9 (Northcourt)	Abingdon Abbey Northcourt	All Saints Methodist Church, Appleford Drive		
XAD1	Abingdon No.10 (Peachcroft)	Abingdon Peachcroft	Hadland Road Community Centre		
XAD2	Abingdon No.11(Peachcroft)	Abingdon Peachcroft	North East Abingdon Community Centre		
XAE1	Abingdon No.12 (Dunmore)	Abingdon Dunmore	All Saints Methodist Church, Appleford Drive	Polling place is in adjacent parish ward	
XAE2	Abingdon No.13 (Dunmore)	Abingdon Dunmore	Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive		
XAE3	Abingdon No.14 (Dunmore)	Abingdon Dunmore	2nd Abingdon Scout Hut, Farm Road		
SQA	Appleford	Sutton Courtenay	Appleford Village Hall		
XAE	Appleton with Eaton	Thames	Appleton Village Hall		
SIA	Ardington	Hendreds	Loyd Lindsay Rooms, High Street, Ardington		
STA	Ashbury	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Ashbury Village Hall		
SOA	Baulking	Stanford	Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
XEB	Besselsleigh	Thames	Appleton Village Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
SAA	Blewbury	Blewbury & Harwell	Blewbury Village Hall		
STB	Bourton	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Bourton Village Hall		
SRA	Buckland	Thames	Buckland Memorial Hall		
STC	Buscot	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Buscot Village Hall		
SKA	Charney Bassett	Kingston Bagpuize	Charney Bassett Village Hall		
SMA	Childrey	Ridgeway	Childrey Village Hall		
SAB1	Chilton No.1	Blewbury & Harwell	Chilton Fields Community Room,Horsa Lane		
SAB2	Chilton No.2	Blewbury & Harwell	Chilton Village Hall		
STD	Coleshill	Watchfield & Shrivenham	The Hall Coleshill		
STE	Compton Beauchamp	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Ashbury Village Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
XCA1	Cumnor (Farmoor)	Cumnor	Farmoor Village Hall		
XCA2	Cumnor (Dean Court)	Cumnor	St Andrews Church Hall, Orchard Road, Dean Court		
XCA3	Cumnor (Cumnor Village)	Cumnor	Cumnor Village Hall		
XCA4	Cumnor (Cumnor Hill)	Cumnor	Cumnor Village Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish ward	
SPA	Denchworth	Steventon & the Hanneys	Denchworth Village Hall		
SFA	Drayton	Drayton	Drayton Village Hall		
SMB	East Challow	Ridgeway	East Challow Village Hall		
SPB	East Hanney	Steventon & the Hanneys	Hanney War Memorial Hall, East Hanney		
SJA	East Hendred	Hendreds	Snells Hall, East Hendred		

STF	Eaton Hastings	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Buscot Village Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
SGA	Faringdon	Faringdon	Faringdon Corn Exchange		
STG	Fernham	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Longcot Methodist Chapel	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
SKB	Frilford	Kingston Bagpuize	Evangelical Chapel, Kingston Road, Frilford		
SRB	Fyfield and Tubney	Thames	Mobile Unit White Hart, Main Road, Fyfield		
SKC	Garford	Kingston Bagpuize	Garford Village Hall		
SKD	Goosey	Kingston Bagpuize	Charney Bassett Village Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
STH	Great Coxwell	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Reading Room, Great Coxwell		
SHA	Grove No1. (North)	Grove North	Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove		
SSA	Grove No.2 (Brook)	Wantage & Grove	Grove Methodist Church, Main Street, Grove		
SAC1	Harwell No.1	Blewbury & Harwell	Boundary Park Pavilion		
SAC2	Harwell No.2	Blewbury & Harwell	Harwell Village Hall		
SJB	Harwell No.3 (Harwell Oxford Campu	Hendreds	Harwell Village Hall		
SOB	Hatford	Stanford	Stanford in the Vale Village Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
SRC	Hinton Waldrist	Thames	Hinton Waldrist Village Hall		
XDA1	Kennington No.1	Kennington & Radley	Kennington Village Hall		
XDA2	Kennington No.2	Kennington & Radley	Kennington Village Hall		
SKE	Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor	Kingston Bagpuize	Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall		
SMC	Kingston Lisle	Ridgeway	The Bungalow Village Hall, Kingston Lisle		
SMD	Letcombe Bassett	Ridgeway	Letcombe Basset Village Hall		
SME	Letcombe Regis	Ridgeway	Letcombe Regis Village Hall		
STI	Little Coxwell	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Little Coxwell Village Hall		
SRD	Littleworth	Thames	Reading Room, Littleworth		
SJC	Lockinge	Hendreds	Loyd Lindsay Rooms, High Street , Ardington	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
STJ	Longcot	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Longcot Mehtodist Chapel		
SRE	Longworth	Thames	Longworth Village Hall		
SKF	Lyford	Kingston Bagpuize	Charney Bassett Village Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
SLA	Marcham	Marcham	Marcham Sports & Social Club Anson Field	Not available until May 2020. Returning Officer to designate alternative venue for election(s) prior to this date.	
SFB	Milton No.1 (Village)	Drayton	Milton Methodist Church		
SJD	Milton No 2 (Heights)	Hendreds	Milton Community Centre, School Lane, Milton Heights		
XBA	North Hinksey	Botley & Sunningwell	The Church Hall of St Peter and St Paul		
SRF	Pusey	Thames	Buckland Memorial Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
XDB	Radley No.1	Kennington & Radley	Site Office, Pebble Hill Mobile Home Park, Radley		
XDE	Radley No.2	Kennington & Radley	Radley Village Hall, Gooseacre, Radley		
SOC	Shellingford	Stanford	Shellingford Community Hall		
STK	Shrivenham	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Shrivenham Memorial Hall		
SBB 1	South Hinksey (Hinksey Hill)	Botley & Sunningwell	South Hinksey Village Hall	Polling place is in adjacent parish ward	
SBB 2	South Hinksey (Village)	Botley & Sunningwell	South Hinksey Village Hall		

SMF	Sparsholt	Ridgeway	Griffin Memorial Hall, Sparsholt		
XFC	St Helen Without No.1 (Dry Sandford	Marcham	Scout Hall, Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford		
SLB	St Helen Without No.2 (Shippon)	Marcham	Shippon Village Hall		
SOD	Stanford-in-the-Vale	Stanford	Stanford in the Vale Village Hall		
SPC	Steventon	Steventon & the Hanneys	Steventon Village Hall		
XBC	Sunningwell	Botley and Sunningwell	Sunningwell Village Hall		
SQB	Sutton Courtenay	Sutton Courtenay	Sutton Courtenay Village Hall		
SOE	Uffington	Stanford	Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall		
SAD	Upton	Blewbury & Harwell	Upton Village Hall		
SSB1	Wantage No.1 (Segsbury)	Wantage & Grove Brook	The Beacon, Portway, Wantage	Officers to assess St Mary's Convent's suitability as a polling place following renovation works and to continue to seek an alternative venue. The most affected electors will need to travel a further 0.5 miles.	
SSB2	Wantage No.2 (Segsbury)	Wantage & Grove Brook	The Beacon, Portway, Wantage	Officers to assess St Mary's Convent's suitability as a polling place following renovation works and to continue to seek an alternative venue.	
SSC1	Wantage No.3 (Charlton)	Wantage Charlton	The Beacon Portway, Wantage		
SSC2	Wantage No.4 (Charlton)	Wantage Charlton	Scout HQ, Springfield Road, Wantage		
SSC3	Wantage No.5 (Charlton)	Wantage Charlton	Wantage Silver Band Hall, Reading Road, Wantage		
STL	Watchfield	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Watchfield Village Hall		
SMG	West Challow	Ridgeway	West Challow Village Hall		
SPD	West Hanney	Steventon & the Hanneys	Hanney War Memorial Hall, East Hanney	Polling place is in adjacent parish	
SJE	West Hendred	Hendreds	West Hendred Village Hall		
SOF	Woolstone	Stanford	Merestones, Woolstone		
XFA	Wootton	Wootton	Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre		
XBD	Wytham	Botley & Sunningwell	Wytham Village hall		