

CGR 6

Parishes Affected

St Helen Without, Besselsleigh, Marcham

Matter to be considered

Placing the whole of Cothill in a single parish, rather than splitting it between two parishes as at present

Impact on district and county council boundaries

Affects Marcham, Thames and Wootton district wards

Affects Sutton Courteney and Marcham and Kingston and Cumnor county divisions

Summary of parish council responses

Marcham parish council, accepts the logic of siting Cothill in one parish. It is of the opinion that the views of residents regarding which parish they wish to be in should be the key factor when coming to a final decision.

St Helen Without parish council has responded as follows, "St Helen Without Parish Council fully supports the proposal by the VWHDC Review Team to move the whole of Cothill into the parish, subject to the views of residents in the consultation process."

Summary of other responses

None

Recommendation

To move the whole of Cothill into St Helen Without parish, as shown on the attached map

Justification

The village of Cothill is split between fairly evenly between Marcham and St Helen Without parishes. The boundary runs through the Merry Miller pub in the middle of the village. The working group considers that the identities and interests of the residents of Cothill is better served by them being in a single parish. It will also allow for more effective and convenient representation of local residents at parish level and avoid people being in a different parish to their neighbours.

There are arguments in favour of moving the whole of Cothill into either parish. On balance the working group recommends placing it in St Helen Without parish. It considers that the small community of Cothill sits better with those of Shippon and Dry Sandford (also within St Helen Without) rather than the much larger Marcham.

The working group also considers that there is benefit in moving a small part of Besselsleigh parish (containing no properties) into St Helen Without to create a more logical boundary. The proposed new boundary runs along the line of Sandford Brook.