

Agenda



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A meeting of the **Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee**

WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2022 at 7.00 pm

**FIRST FLOOR MEETING SPACE, 135 EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK,
MILTON, ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE, OX14 4SB**

Members of the Committee:

Councillors:

Ron Batstone (Chair)

Sarah Medley (Vice-Chair)

Paul Barrow

Alison Jenner

Mike Pighills

Janet Shelley

Substitutes:

Councillors:

Simon Howell

Diana Lugova

Ben Mabbett

Robert Maddison

Patrick O'Leary

Max Thompson

Elaine Ware

Richard Webber

You can watch this meeting via the council's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SouthandValeCommitteeMeetings>

**An application to speak must be made in writing or by email to
democratic services democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk
by 5.00 pm on Friday 9 September 2022.**

**Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These
include large print, Braille, audio, email and easy read. For this or any
other special requirements (such as access facilities) please contact the
officer named on this agenda. Please give as much notice as possible
before the meeting.**

Patrick Arran

Head of Legal and Democratic

Vale of White Horse District Councils

Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee agenda - Monday, 12 September 2022

Agenda

Open to the public including the press

1. Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence and the attendance of substitute members.

2. Minutes

(Pages 5 - 7)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee minutes of the meeting held on 4 August 2022.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and any conflicts of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Urgent business and chair's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chair.

5. Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6. Community Governance Review - final recommendations

(Pages 8 - 10)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic and agree final recommendations on a number of community governance review matters – attached.

7. Community Governance Review - Grove

(Pages 11 - 14)

8. Community Governance Review - Grove Technology Park

(Pages 15 - 21)

9. Community Governance Review - Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Fyfield and Tubney

(Pages 22 - 32)

10. Community Governance Review - North Hinksey (parish name change)

(Pages 33 - 37)

11. Community Governance Review - South Hinksey and Kennington

(Pages 38 - 49)

12. Community Governance Review - Sunningwell (Wootton and Cumnor)

(Pages 50 - 90)

13. Community Governance Review - Uffington

(Pages 91 - 93)

14. Community Governance Review - Wootton

(Pages 94 - 107)

15. The timing of future community governance reviews

The [Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007](#) provides for principal councils to conduct a community governance review (CGR) at any time.

The relevant [guidance](#), issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Department for Communities and Local Government, suggests that principal councils will want to keep their community governance arrangements under review. The guidance goes on to offer the following advice on what might trigger a CGR:

- it can be helpful to undertake community governance reviews in circumstances such as where there have been changes in population, or in reaction to specific or new local issues
- communities may expand with new housing developments over time. This can often lead to existing parish boundaries becoming anomalous as new houses are built across the boundaries resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours. In such circumstances, the council should consider undertaking a community governance review
- councils should exercise their discretion, but it is good practice to consider

conducting a review every 10-15 years

There is also provision for a community governance review to be triggered by a petition for the whole or part of the council's area, but this is subject to rules around previous CGR's carried out by the principal council.

In 2017 this committee agreed to undertake a community governance review every four years after the scheduled parish council elections, with any agreed changes implemented in time for the next scheduled elections.

Officers experience since 2017 has been that undertaking reviews every four years is a very resource intensive for the elections team and other service teams which support the reviews. Furthermore, undertaking a review every four years, generally invites parish councils to consider and submit speculative requests often on a repeat basis. A number of the matters considered generate little interest from the public.

The guidance states that principal councils should consider the benefits of undertaking a review of the whole of its area in one go, rather than carrying out small scale reviews in a piecemeal fashion of smaller areas, recognising that occasionally specific reviews, for example to adjust minor parish boundary anomalies, may be appropriate. Committing to undertake a review every four years is contrary to the above guidance, is unnecessary, and as can be seen from the most recent review, causes tension between parish councils.

Officers firmly recommend that the council relies on the statutory guidance provided on the timing of a community governance review, including the provision for a district wide review every 10-15 years. The committee will know that it is perfectly acceptable and possible for specific reviews to be carried out to address anomalies.

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee authorises the democratic services manager to carry out future reviews at timescales provided for in the government guidance in consultation with the chair of the committee.