

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee

held on Monday 18 March 2024 at 6.00 pm in
Meeting Room 1, Abbey House, Abbey Close,
Abingdon, OX14 3JE

Open to the public, including the press

Present in the meeting room:

Councillors: Robert Maddison (Chair), Max Thompson (Vice-Chair), Diana Lugova, Eric de la Harpe, Oliver Forder and Sarah James

Officers: Susan Baker (Electoral Services Team Leader), Emily Barry (Democratic Services Officer) and Steven Corrigan (Democratic Services Manager)

Remote attendance:

Officers: Ben Silverthorne (Trainee Democratic and Electoral Services Officer) and Bertie Smith (Broadcasting Officer)

14 Chair's announcements

In the absence of a chair, Councillor Max Thompson Vice-Chair of the committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He used his discretion to consider item 7 from the agenda – election of a chair, before any other items on the agenda.

15 Election of a chair

Following Councillor Oliver Forder's appointment as vice-chair of Council, the committee was asked to elect a chair for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24.

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Robert Maddison as chair for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24.

16 Apologies for absence

None.

17 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 February 2024 as a correct record and agree that the chair sign them as such.

18 Declarations of interest

None.

19 Urgent business

None.

20 Public participation

None.

21 Local Government Boundary Commission for England Review of Vale of White Horse District Council Warding Arrangements

The committee considered the report of the head of legal and democratic on warding arrangements for Vale of White Horse District Council including a representation made by Councillor Mark Coleman in relation to Littleworth Parish which had been received since the publication of the agenda.

The Democratic Services Manager outlined the changes that had been made to the proposals as described in the report and set out in appendix B to the report. He reiterated to the committee that the deadline for submission of the proposal was Friday 22 March 2024 following the agreement from the Boundary Commission to extend the submission deadline for all parties. The Democratic Services Manager went on to remind the committee that following this submission the Boundary Commission would publish it's own draft proposal in June and there would be the opportunity for members to comment again at this stage.

The committee noted that the proposal before them had been drawn up with the benefit of consultation responses from members. The chair then invited views on where Littleworth should sit within the proposal in light of the comments submitted by Councillor Coleman. The committee reflected that the concerns of Littleworth centred around greater community cohesion with a rural ward than with the Faringdon ward.

The committee asked what the impact of moving Littleworth into the Kingston Bagpuize ward would have on the percentage variance from average. The Democratic Services Manager advised the committee that the variances for affected wards would be as follows:

Ward Name	% variance from average
Kingston Bagpuize	0%
Stanford	7%
Faringdon	14%

The committee had no comments or concerns on any other matters set out in the proposal.

A motion, moved and seconded to amend the proposal to move Littleworth into the Kingston Bagpuize ward was carried on being put to the vote.

RESOLVED: to

1. Agree the final proposals for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England subject to Littleworth being moved into the Kingston Bagpuize ward;
2. authorise the democratic services manager, in consultation with the chair of the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee, to finalise the document for submission.

The meeting closed at 6.31 pm