

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the
Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee
held on Thursday, 24th June, 2010 at The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall,
Macclesfield SK10 1DX

PRESENT

Councillor J Crockatt (Chairman)
Councillor P Whiteley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors G Barton and S Jones

Officers

Brian Reed, Democratic Services Manager
Mike Flynn, Review Team Officer
Paul Mountford, Legal and Democratic Services

Apologies

Councillors R Cartlidge and D Stockton
Lindsey Parton, Elections and Registration Team Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

2 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public wishing to speak or ask a question.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on 15th and 28th April 2010 be approved as a correct record.

4 WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - FORMULATING THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

The Sub-Committee considered a briefing paper based on the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government which set out the process to be followed in conducting the Community Governance Review.

RESOLVED

That the procedures to be followed in conducting the Community Governance Review, based on the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government, be noted.

5 WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - FIRST STAGE CONSULTATION

Members considered the outcome of the Stage 1 consultation which had concluded on 4th June. The Sub-Committee now had to determine its advice to the Constitution Committee on the formulation of the Council's draft recommendation. The Constitution Committee would be meeting on the afternoon of 24th June and would consider the Sub-Committee's advice at that meeting.

In addition to the briefing paper considered earlier in the meeting, Members had before them the following:

- (a) Valid petition requesting a Wilmslow and Handforth Town Council
- (b) Valid petition requesting a Handforth Community Council
- (c) Valid petition requesting a Parish Council for Styal
- (d) Results of the consultation with electors
- (e) Other representations received
- (f) Notes of three public meetings held on 26th 28th and 29th April 2010

Three ballots had been conducted, one for the area covered by the Handforth petition, one for Styal and one for Wilmslow. In each case, the voter was asked to indicate whether they wanted a parish council and, if so, whether this should be for their area alone or for the whole of the unparished area comprising Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal. A clear majority of respondents in each area wanted to have a parish council, and of those, a clear majority wanted a separate parish council for their area.

In considering the results of the Stage 1 consultation and formulating its recommendations, the Sub-Committee had regard to the need to ensure that community governance within the area under review would be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Effective and convenient.

The Sub-Committee also had regard to the historical and traditional identities within the area and in this respect felt that Polling District 8EE1, which had been included in the Handforth petition, should be included in any future parish for Wilmslow, given that the River Dean, which formed the northern boundary of the polling district, was the natural geographic, as well as historical, boundary between Wilmslow and Handforth. Members asked that a map be prepared for the meeting of the Constitution

Committee, showing the areas of the three proposed parishes but with the inclusion of Polling District 8EE1 within the Wilmslow parish.

Members agreed that for the parishes of Handforth and Styal, the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole whereas Wilmslow, being significantly larger, should be divided into wards. The Sub-Committee would need to consider the detailed arrangements further at its next meeting.

RESOLVED

That

(1) the Constitution Committee be advised

That, pursuant to Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; and having regard to the provisions of the Department for Communities and Local Government and Electoral Commission Guidance, issued in April 2008, for the conduct of Community Governance Reviews; and having received three valid petitions signed by the required number of electors calling for the constitution of new parishes for the three areas of (1) Handforth; (2) Wilmslow and Handforth; (3) Styal which triggered the Community Governance Review process:

1. Having taken into account

- a. the petitions;
- b. the results of the consultation with the electors in each of the areas concerned which show in each case that a majority of those who returned their ballot papers were in favour of a new parish council for their area;
- c. the results of the consultation exercise with stakeholders and the representations from other interested persons;
- d. the outcomes of the public meetings held in each of the review areas; and
- e. the information on existing community governance arrangements in the areas concerned and the alternative forms of community governance which might have been appropriate for the areas in question;

2. Council be advised

- a. that the interests of effective and convenient local government and community identities in these areas would be served by the creation of new parishes with a parish council for each of Handforth (not including polling district 8EE1 so as to recognise historic and

traditional boundaries in the area); Wilmslow (including polling district 8EE1); and Styal; such parish councils to be called: Handforth Parish Council, Wilmslow Parish Council and Styal Parish Council respectively, and that Wilmslow Parish Council be advised to consider its designation as a Town Council;

- b. that in Handforth the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole;
 - c. that in Styal the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole;
 - d. that given the substantial size of the proposed Wilmslow parish and in order to reflect longstanding community identities, the parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of election to the Parish Council;
 - e. that the first year of elections to the new parish councils should be 2011; and
 - f. that these proposals form the basis of a second stage of public consultations and that the Boundary Commission be informed of these proposals;
- (2) a further meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 5th July 2010 at 10.00 am in Macclesfield to make recommendations to Council in relation to:
- a. the number of councillors to serve on each of the new parish councils; and
 - b. the ward names and boundaries, and the number of councillors for each ward in the Wilmslow parish, bearing in mind the need to achieve overall electoral equality (ie. the number of electors per councillor) as far as possible.

6 NEXT STEPS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

Members considered an updated project plan which set out the remaining stages and timetable of the Community Governance Review. The project plan would need to be updated further to take into account the Sub-Committee's next meeting and a possible special meeting of the Constitution Committee to be held before the Council meeting on 22nd July.

RESOLVED

That the project plan be noted and further updated as appropriate.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5th July 2010 at 10.00 am in Macclesfield.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.30 am

Councillor J Crockatt (Chairman)