

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the
Community Governance Review Sub-Committee
held on Friday, 26th February, 2021

PRESENT

Councillor J Bratherton (Chairman)
Councillor A Martin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors L Crane, S Edgar, T Fox, B Murphy, A Stott and P Williams

Other Members present

Councillors R Bailey, M Beanland, S Brookfield, C Bulman, B Burkhill,
J Clowes, A Critchley, T Dean, B Evans, L Gilbert, M Hunter, A Moran,
J Rhodes, M Sewart and L Smetham

Officers in attendance

Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance
Diane Barnard, Electoral Services Team Leader
Nick Billington, Economic Research & Intelligence Officer
Phil Christian, Business Intelligence Manager
Rose Hignett, Senior Electoral Services Officer
Peter Jones, Planning, Highways and Litigation Lawyer
Paul Mountford, Executive Democratic Services Officer
Stuart Penny, Planning Policy and CIL Manager
Katie Small, Democratic Services Team Leader

Also present

Dr Melvin Humphreys, Association of Electoral Administrators

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In view of the dispensation in place for all members of the Council, there were no declarations of interest.

2 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Mr Adam Keppel-Green, the Clerk to Gawsworth Parish Council, expressed his Council's opposition to the proposals for Gawsworth.

Councillor Philip Jackson, Wybunbury Parish Council, spoke in support of the proposals for Wybunbury.

Councillor Les Horne, Minshull Vernon and District Parish Council, expressed his Council's opposition to the proposed abolition of the Parish Council.

Mr Alan Murdoch, Handforth, objected to the proposed merger of Handforth and Wilmslow.

Councillor Chris Knibbs, Hatherton and Walgherton Parish Council, commented that the Parish Council had responded to the pre-consultation survey and that in this respect the report on the agenda was incorrect.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

4 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - FORMAL CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROPOSALS

The Sub-Committee considered a report on the draft proposals for formal consultation.

At its meeting on 6th March 2020, the Sub-Committee had considered the pre-consultation survey responses and the next steps for the review. It had resolved that the pre-consultation survey responses be received and that the initiation of the development of the Council's proposals for all parish ward boundaries be approved. Since that meeting, six member workshops had taken place to develop draft proposals for consultation. The draft proposals were set out in Appendix B to the report. If approved, they would be the subject of a 12-week consultation exercise in accordance with the terms of reference for the review.

Dr M Humphreys of the Association of Electoral Administrators was in attendance at the meeting to provide an expert opinion on the consultation process and the further progress of the Community Governance Review.

Officers advised that the references to 'proposed expansion areas' in the maps attached to the report would be changed to 'potential expansion areas' before the consultation commenced.

Councillor L Gilbert referred to an administrative error in the report in that Holmes Chapel Parish Council had responded to the pre-consultation survey and that, if the Parish Council's response had been taken into consideration, the draft consultation proposals relating to Holmes Chapel could have been different. He therefore asked that the consultation proposals be reviewed before the consultation commenced, to take account of the Parish Council's response to the pre-consultation survey.

The Chairman asked officers to discuss the matter further with Councillor Gilbert after the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Sub-Committee recommends to the Constitution Committee that the draft proposals attached at Appendix B to the report be formally agreed for the purposes of consultation and consulted upon for a 12-week period, subject to any amendments required to reflect the response of Holmes Chapel Parish Council to the pre-consultation survey.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.35 pm

Councillor J Bratherton (Chairman)