

Extraordinary Council – 4 September 2014

Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **4 September 2014** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr C I Black	Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr J C Burton	Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr R R Dray	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr J H Gibson	Cllr T E Mountain
Cllr J D Griffin	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr J Hayter	Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr B T Hazlewood	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr N J Hookway	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr Mrs D Hoy	Cllr Mrs M H Spencer
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr D J Sperring
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr J L Lawmon	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L A Butcher, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, K J Gordon, Mrs A V Hale and Mrs J E McPherson.

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Dave	–	Chief Executive
A Bugeja	–	Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
J Bostock	–	Member Services Manager

174 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs R R Dray, J L Lawmon, Mrs C E Roe, Mrs M H Spencer, D J Sperring and I H Ward each declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on the Electoral Review of Rochford District Council as Rayleigh Town Councillors who had not entered into any discussions on the item at Rayleigh Town Council meetings.

175 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council considered the report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services summarising the work carried out by the Electoral Review Working Group and related recommendations on proposed Ward boundaries and associated matters. A replacement report appendix 1 had been issued under separate cover on 29 August 2014.

Council recognised that a significant amount of detailed and complex work had gone into the development of recommendations by both Members and the Lead Officer.

Each recommendation was considered in turn.

Responding to questions on recommendation (1) (approving Warding patterns) the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services advised that:-

- Population projections had been used, including in connection with building proposed at land to the north of London Road, Rayleigh.
- Once the supporting information document had been endorsed, officers would undertake a final review of the map to ensure all proposed boundaries were correctly identified.
- Whilst further adjustment to specific locations could have an adverse impact on the proposals as a whole, Members were not precluded from expressing their own views direct to the Boundary Commission on the best fit for locations such as Millview Meadows, Rochford.
- The starting point for the Commission had been elections by thirds and associated three Member Wards. The formula could change if the Council decided to move to all out elections at some point in the future.
- That the term 'Victoria Avenue down to Cheapside West' could be included under section 10 of the supporting information if that is a better description.

During discussion of election by thirds a Member referred to the fact that, on polling days, residents sometimes wondered why all Ward Councillors were not included in the ballot. Another Member referred to the fact that Members of Parliament were not expected to share constituencies and to concern at advice received during the development of proposals that it was too late for the Council to consider a move to all-out elections when this may not have been the case. There were financial advantages to the tax payer associated with all-out elections.

With regard to recommendation (2), in relation to proposed Ward 2, Council agreed a motion, moved by Cllr M J Steptoe and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore.

With regard to recommendation (3) Council agreed final proposals on the names of Wards on a Ward by Ward basis. There was particular discussion in relation to proposed Ward 10 - either 'Rayleigh West' or 'Sweyne Park and Grange'. Observations included that 'Sweyne Park and Grange' could be less confusing than 'Rayleigh West'; that the single term 'Grange' could better reflect historical considerations; that there used to be a 'Grange and Rawreth' Ward; that the Sweyne School could be seen as bringing some identity; that a

number of roads were in the vicinity of Sweyne Park and that residents in other parts of the District may not recognise the term 'Grange' in isolation.

There was also discussion on whether the proposed name of 'King George' for Ward 11 should be replaced with 'Wheatley' given representations that had been made by some residents and historic considerations, the term 'Wheatley' going back a number of centuries and having been recognised by Sir Bernard Braine when he had received his peerage.

It was agreed that, from an historical perspective, it would be appropriate for the proposed name for Ward 13 to be 'Lodge'.

Report recommendation (4) was agreed.

Resolved

(1) That the proposed Warding patterns, as shown on the plan attached to the report, form the Council's Stage 1 consultation response to The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

(2) That Ward 2 is proposed to the LGBE as a split one and two Member Ward.

(3) That the Ward names to be proposed to the LGBCE be as follows:-

Ward 1 – Foulness and the Wakerings
Ward 2 – Rochford South and Rochford North
Ward 3 – Rochford Central
Ward 4 – Hawkwell East
Ward 5 – Hawkwell West
Ward 6 – Hockley and Ashingdon
Ward 7 – Hockley
Ward 8 – Hullbridge
Ward 9 – Downhall and Rawreth
Ward 10 – Sweyne Park and Grange
Ward 11 – Wheatley
Ward 12 – Trinity
Ward 13 – Lodge

(4) That authority be delegated to officers, in consultation with the Electoral Review Working Group, to finalise supporting information and include, where necessary, further information and evidence to support the Council's proposals to the LGBCE. (HLEMS)

Note: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn wished it to be recorded that she had voted against resolution (1) above.

176 **FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHY AND AUDIO RECORDING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Portfolio Holder for Governance, Cllr Mrs C E Roe, presented a recommendation on the incorporation of a policy in relation to filming, photography and audio recording at Council meetings in the Council's Social Media Policy.

During discussion it was observed that, whilst the introduction of full web/podcasting could have significant resource implications, it would be appropriate for the Council to have in place a facility to record the open parts of formal Council and Committee meetings, both in the Council Chamber and Room 4, as an interim measure. Council agreed a motion, moved by Cllr K H Hudson and seconded by Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn, in that regard.

Report recommendations were endorsed and it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That consideration be given to the installation of appropriate equipment to sound record the public part of Council and Committee meetings in the Council Chamber and Room 4 as a matter of urgency. (HPT)
- (2) That the proposed policy in relation to filming, photography and audio recording at Council meetings, as set out under paragraph 3.2 of the officer report to the Portfolio Holder for Governance, be incorporated in the Council's Social Media Policy. (HLEMS)

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.