

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, 11th November, 2008

Present: Cllr M S Worrall (Chairman), Cllr M J Dobson (Vice-Chairman), Cllr N J Heslop, Cllr Miss A Moloney, Cllr M R Rhodes, Cllr A K Sullivan and Cllr D Thornewell.

Councillor Stone was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aikman and Evans.

**ER
08/001 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**ER
08/002 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Review Working Group held on 4 December 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**ER
08/003 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2008**

Further to the decision of the General Purposes Committee on 24 September 2008 (Minute GP 08/019), consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive in respect of proposed Terms of Reference for a Community Governance Review of Parish Arrangements. The report outlined the legislative framework for undertaking a community governance review and the stages involved in the review between publication of the terms of reference and the concluding final recommendations.

Members were advised that the Terms of Reference set out in Annex 1 to the report had been drafted in response to the need to address a specific boundary issue between the parishes of Ditton and East Malling and Larkfield on the former Frantschach site off New Hythe Lane. In addition the opportunity would be taken to consider the level of membership of parish councils that were currently constituted with fewer members than recommended by National Association of Parish Councils guidelines. Details were given of comments received from parish councils in response to a letter notifying them of the prospective review.

The Chief Executive advised that Snodland Town Council had

identified an imbalance between the membership of the Snodland east and west wards. Kings Hill Parish Council had requested a review of its boundaries with East Malling and Larkfield and Wateringbury parishes to enable playing pitches (to be provided under a Section 106 agreement at Heath Farm and serving Kings Hill) to be included within Kings Hill parish. The Working Group acknowledged that there may be a case to review the boundary in due course but agreed that the Parish Council be advised to wait until the pitches were laid out on site in order to judge the most appropriate position of the boundary. It was also noted that an imbalance between the membership of the three wards within East Malling and Larkfield parish had been identified.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the Terms of Reference set out at Annex 1 to the report, with the addition of Snodland, be adopted for the purposes of consultation with all appropriate bodies, individuals and the public;
- (2) the Terms of Reference be published as at 1 December 2008 to signify the start of the review and to allow all persons and bodies who may be interested to be able to make representations; and
- (3) all comments received in response to the Terms of Reference be reported to the meeting of the Working Group to be held on 25 March 2009 in order that "Draft Proposals" may be determined.

The meeting ended at 1954 hours