

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING GROUP****Monday, 14th January, 2019**

Present: Cllr N J Heslop (Chairman), Cllr D Lettington (Vice-Chairman), Cllr O C Baldock, Cllr D Markham, Cllr P J Montague and Cllr A K Sullivan

Councillor D A S Davis was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M A Coffin

PART 2 - PRIVATE**ER 19/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

ER 19/2 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Review Working Group held on 8 October 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ER 19/3 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The report of the Chief Executive gave details of responses received to the recent public consultation regarding the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the Borough. It was noted that six formal responses had been received including requests from Wouldham Parish Council and the local Member of Parliament that Wouldham Village Hall be retained as a polling station rather than the new Village School. The latter had been proposed as it offered the opportunity to resolve access and parking problems at the current venue. In view of the representations received, Building Control had been asked to inspect the Village Hall's access and provide a report which was circulated at the meeting. It indicated that the Hall did not comply with the current 2015 edition of Approved Document M – Access to and use of buildings or the Equality Act.

Members gave careful consideration to the representations and discussed a number of options. They concluded that the new Village School provided the only solution which met the requirements of a polling station that was accessible to all.

Attention was also drawn to a request that the Jubilee Hall at East Peckham be considered as a polling station instead of Curran Hall. Since the latter was more centrally located in the village, it was considered that it should continue to be used with the Jubilee Hall as a backup station in an emergency or if circumstances changed.

It was noted that the final proposals would be presented to the Council on 19 February and appropriate changes made to the Register with effect from 1 March 2019.

RECOMMENDED: That the final proposals in respect of Polling Districts and Polling Places set out at Annex 3 to the report be approved and commended to the Council for adoption.

The meeting ended at 8.28 pm