

A meeting of the **ELECTIONS PANEL** will be held in **MEETING ROOM 1, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON** on **TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2006** at **2:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact
(01480)**

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2006.

**Mrs L Jablonska
388004**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

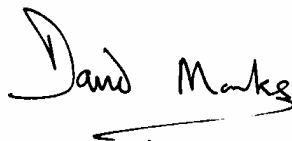
To receive from Members declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any Agenda item. Please see Notes 1 and 2 below.

3. PARISH ELECTORAL REVIEW (Pages 3 - 28)

To consider a report by the Director of Central Services on the results of the initial consultation of the parish electoral review of the District.

**Mrs L Jablonska
388004**

Dated this 14th day of August 2006



Chief Executive

Notes

1. *A personal interest exists where a decision on a matter would affect to a greater extent than other people in the District –*
 - (a) *the well-being, financial position, employment or business of the Councillor, a partner, relatives or close friends;*
 - (b) *a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors;*
 - (c) *any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £5,000; or*
 - (d) *the Councillor's registerable financial and other interests.*
2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

Please contact Mrs L Jablonska, Central Services Manager, Tel No 01480 388004/e-mail: Lisa.Jablonska@huntsdc.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (under Councils and Democracy).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit and to make their way to the base of the flagpole in the car park at the front of Pathfinder House.

Agenda Item 1

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the ELECTIONS PANEL held at Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon on Wednesday, 17th May 2006.

PRESENT: Councillors J A P Eddy, A N Gilbert,
M F Newman, K Reynolds, T D Sanderson
and J Taylor.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

that Councillor D Harty be elected Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor D Harty in the Chair.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 31st October 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

that Councillor J A P Eddy be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Chairman

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PARISH ELECTORAL REVIEW (Report by the Director of Central Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to acquaint members with details of the process involved with the parish electoral review of the District and to provide details of the results of the initial consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The District Council has a duty to keep under review the electoral arrangements of its parishes to ensure that parishes continue to reflect the identities and interests of local communities. The Local Government and Rating Act 1997 requires all district and unitary authorities to review the parish pattern in their area. However, there is no requirement for a review to be carried out within any particular time frame. The last parish electoral review in Huntingdonshire was completed in 1980.

- 2.2 As part of the review the Council may consider –

- ◆ the alteration of the boundaries of parishes and parish wards;
- ◆ the formation of new parishes and parish wards;
- ◆ the dissolution of parishes and parish wards;
- ◆ the establishment of parish councils for new parishes;
- ◆ the amalgamation or grouping of parishes; and
- ◆ changes to parish electoral arrangements, including a review of the number of councillors to be elected for each parish or ward of a parish.

- 2.3 Following the transfer of functions, responsibilities relating to parish reviews and associated electoral arrangements have been divided between the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission. The Secretary of State has retained all responsibilities relating to administrative boundaries of local authorities (including town and parish councils). In the context of parishes this relates to the creation of new parishes, the abolition of parishes and the alteration of parish areas.

- 2.4 The Electoral Commission has assumed nearly all responsibilities in relation to local authority (including town and parish councils) electoral arrangements. In this context electoral arrangements means the number, names and boundaries of electoral areas and the number of representatives for each electoral area in a local authority.

- 2.5 The Boundary Committee for England is a statutory committee of the Electoral Commission and is responsible for conducting electoral reviews of local authority (parish, district and county council) areas and to make recommendations to the Commission.

2.6 The Secretary of State has no powers to create parish councils; this can be undertaken by district councils and unitary authorities.

3. CONSULTATION

3.1 In carrying out the review, the Boundary Committee expects the Council to follow a four stage consultation process as outlined below–

Stage 1	Minimum of 12 weeks	Announcement of the direction and period for representations.
Stage 2	Typically 8 weeks	Preparation of draft recommendations
Stage 3	Minimum of 12 weeks	Publication and consultation on draft recommendations
Stage 4	Typically 8 weeks	Preparation of final recommendations and submission to the Electoral Commission

3.2 The review commenced at the end of March 2006 by way of an article in the District Wide publication. In addition to this preliminary consultation with interested parties was undertaken to –

- ◆ explain and raise awareness of the reviews;
- ◆ identify the matters which can (and cannot) be considered; and
- ◆ ensure that the Council’s eventual conclusions and submission is inclusive and commands wide ranging support.

3.3 The range of interested parties included District Councillors, Town and Parish Councils, Political Parties, Members of Parliament, County Councillors and representative groups such as the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils.

3.4 The initial consultation period closed at the end of July 2006 and allowed interested parties to submit any proposals for changes to parish arrangements. The Council received 20 responses from Town and Parish Councils, a response from a District Councillor and various other representations. Officers in Departments throughout the Council were invited to comment on the review and as a result have also submitted plans outlining anomalies with parish boundaries around the District where the parish boundary cuts directly through properties. A summary of these responses has been attached at Annex A and maps will be available at the meeting.

4. FURTHER CONSULTATION

4.1 Following the formulation of draft proposals there will be a further period of consultation up until the end of November 2006. This will allow another opportunity for representations to be made. The Panel

will be invited to consider any representations arising from this consultation before determining whether or not, and, if so, formulating final proposals to be sent to the Secretary of State and Electoral Commission towards the end of the year.

- 4.2 A series of public meetings will be scheduled at venues across the District towards the end of October 2006 for consultation on the draft proposals.

5. COUNCIL SIZE

- 5.1 Although the minimum number of councillors that can be elected to a parish council is five, in practice there is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. Currently no national policy exists regarding the ratio of electors to councillors for parishes of different electorate sizes. The Council, at their meeting on 20th November 1974, approved a scale of parish council representation, as outlined below –

<u>Electorate</u>	<u>Members</u>
Up to 250	5 Members
251 to 500	7 Members
501 to 1000	9 Members
1001 to 1500	11 Members
1501 to 2000	13 Members
2001 to 3000	15 Members
3001 to 5000	17 Members
5001 to 10,000	19 Members
over 10,000	21 Members

- 5.2 This scale has remained in place despite significant changes to the size of parishes over the years. As part of the review, the Panel are invited to consider whether any changes are necessary to the scale.

6. ELECTORATE AND FIVE YEAR FORECAST

- 6.1 Attached at Annex B are details of the current electorates broken down by parish and number of councillors, together with a five year forecast which has been prepared by the County Council's Research Unit. The forecast electorate figures will be used to predict electorate growth in each parish and assist in formulating the eventual submission.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Having regard to the comments received during the preliminary consultation and the forecast of electorate, Members of the Panel are invited to

- a) consider the initial responses in detail and formulate draft proposals for further consultation; and
- b) consider any revisions to the scale of parish council representation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Local Government and Rating Act 1997

Guidance and Procedural Advice for Periodic Electoral Reviews – The Electoral Commission July 2002

Contact Officer: Lisa Jablonska
Central Services Manager
Tel: (01480) 388004

Consultation – Summary of Responses

No.	Parish	Consultee	Summary
1	Abbots Ripton/Alconbury/The Stukeleys	LLPG Team	Alconbury Airfield currently has parish boundaries cutting through the middle of the airfield.
2	Alwalton	Elisabeth Moore Chairman Alwalton Parish Council	There be no change to the existing parish boundary or electoral arrangements.
3	Broughton	Catherine Moulton Clerk to Broughton Parish Council	There be no change to the existing parish boundary or electoral arrangements.
4	Buckden/Offord Cluny	LLPG Team	Anomalies between Electoral Register and Council Tax regarding various properties in the Old Flour Mills.
5	Bury	Peter Hazell Chairman Bury Branch Conservative Association	No proposals for any changes but opposed to any changes, particularly if they involve any degree of integration with Ramsey.
6	Eynesbury Hardwicke (Rural)	Martin Land St Neots and District Liberal Democrats	Bulk of the parish should join with Abbotsley and the part between the St Neots bypass, railway line and Cambridge Road, which will eventually be built on, joined to the proposed St Neots Cromwell Ward, so save the need for future revision.
7	Eynesbury Hardwicke (Urban)	Martin Land St Neots and District Liberal Democrats	As the parish now forms part of both the District and County Divisions of Eynesbury, propose that this becomes the new ward, St Neots Eynesbury Hardwicke, with one or two seats on the Town Council.

No.	Parish	Consultee	Summary
8	Eynesbury Hardwicke/St Neots	Bob Barnes Chairman Eynesbury Hardwicke Parish Council	The whole of Eynesbury Hardwicke should be absorbed into St Neots to take account of future housing expansion in that area. Great Paxton, Little Paxton, Southoe and Great Staughton rely on St Neots and should also be included in the town boundaries.
9	Fenstanton	Mr S L Dartford Clerk to Fenstanton Parish Council	There be no change to the existing parish boundary or electoral arrangements.
10	Fenstanton	Ian McKellar Hilton Road Fenstanton	London Road properties and those within 200 or 300 metres east and west of it, south of the river, natural focus is towards St Ives.
11	Hemingford Grey/Fenstanton/ St. Ives	LLPG Team	Some of Enderby's Wharf is in Fenstanton and some in St. Ives
12	Holywell-cum- Needingworth	Mrs S J Mitcham Clerk to Holywell- cum- Needingworth Parish Council	There be no change to the existing parish boundary or electoral arrangements.
13	Houghton and Wyton	Roger Hall Chairman Houghton and Wyton Finance and General Purposes Committee	<p>(a) On completion of Houghton Grange housing development, ensure that the Houghton and Wyton boundary is extended to include all of the development and not straddle the adjacent boundary with St Ives West and St Ives South. Ensure the eastern boundary is maintained;</p> <p>(b) Retain Wyton-on-the-Hill within the current Houghton and Wyton Parish;</p> <p>(c) Retain the western boundary (Houghton Marina to roundabout) to the Parish</p>
14	Houghton and Wyton	Terry Bell District Councillor – Upwood and The Raveleys	Establish an entirely new parish for Wyton on the Hill, thereby separating it entirely from Houghton and Wyton parish.

No.	Parish	Consultee	Summary
15	Huntingdon	Mike Kennedy Town Clerk Huntingdon Town Council	(a) Reorganise three town wards to be coterminous with District Wards to reduce voter confusion and apathy. (District Order 2002 resolved this issue); (b) Incorporate Hinchingsbrooke Parish Ward (currently part of The Stukeleys) into Huntingdon West Parish Ward of the Town.
16	Huntingdon/The Stukeleys	Revenue Services	Implications of land north west of Spittalls Way and Ermine Street, Great Stukeley.
17	Little Paxton	Jennifer Gellatly Clerk to Little Paxton Parish Council	Island site, Mill Lane – boundary currently cuts through small section of the housing development, with most of the site within Little Paxton but a section of the newly developed Skipper Way falling into Priory Ward of St Neots. Move the boundary line along the southern reach of the River Ouse.
18	Little Paxton	Martin Land St Neots and District Liberal Democrats	a) the island site under development partly in St Neots Priory Park Ward, so move boundary so all of site is in Little Paxton; b) hold a referendum of Little Paxton residents to decide whether they wish to maintain a separate Parish Council or become a ward of St Neots.
19	Little Paxton/St. Neots	LLPG Team	The Island site is split between the two parishes
20	Perry	P J Howard Clerk to Perry Parish Council	There be no change to the existing parish boundary or electoral arrangements.
21	Pideley-cum- Fenton/Somersham/ Woodhurst/ Bluntisham/St. Ives	LLPG Team	Clarification as to which parish the roads should be in.
22	Pidley-cum- Fenton/Somersham	LLPG Team	Parish boundary goes through Dovecote Farm

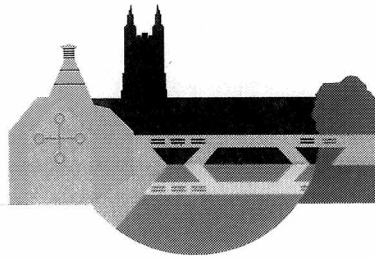
No.	Parish	Consultee	Summary
23	Ramsey	Lorraine Russell Town Clerk Ramsey Town Council	There be no change to the existing parish boundary or electoral arrangements.
24	Ramsey/Bury	LLPG Team	<p>(a) Parish boundary cuts through a quarter of a house on Bryan Close. Electoral Register shows properties as Ramsey, but Council Tax have different records;</p> <p>(b) Signal Road and The Sidings completely on Bury side of parish boundary, even though the industrial estate at the end of the road is in Ramsey;</p> <p>(c) Parish boundary cuts through various properties on Taverners Drive.</p>
25	Ramsey/Bury	Revenue Services	Numerous properties are split by parishes.
26	Somersham	Penny Blewett Clerk to Somersham Parish Council	There be no change to the existing parish boundary or electoral arrangements.
27	Spaldwick	David Stowell Clerk to Spaldwick Parish Council	Move the boundary with Ellington parish to align with Woolley Road so that Beltons Hill, Barham Road and Coton Barn Farm, Woolley Road are within Spaldwick parish.
28	St Ives	Jayne Westlake Assistant to the Town Clerk St Ives Town Council	<p>a) Inclusion of London Road into St Ives parish;</p> <p>b) Inclusion of industrial area known as Compass Point;</p> <p>c) Inclusion of areas of the east side of Harrison Way and Marley Road.</p>
29	St Ives/Fenstanton	Roger Longstaff Enderby's Wharf London Road St Ives	Enderby's Wharf, London Road, St Ives – 1-14 and 17-22 allocated to parish of Fenstanton, whilst 15&16 and the Old Mill and Millside Flats are in the town of St Ives. Amend the anomaly to ensure that all these properties are in the town of St Ives as no affinity with Fenstanton.

No.	Parish	Consultee	Summary
30	St Ives/Fenstanton	Revenue Services	Enderby's Wharf is split by parishes.
31	St Ives/Houghton and Wyton	Revenue Services	Take account of Houghton Grange development.
32	St Neots	Philip Devonald Town Clerk St Neots Town Council	<p>a) amend western boundary of town so land to the north of the B645 and west of the A1 be transferred to Hail Weston parish;</p> <p>b) north western boundary of the town with Little Paxton, from River Kym to the sewage works be regularised to either run along the centre of the navigable channel (northern reach) of River Ouse or southern reach to rejoin the boundary at Gallow Brook;</p> <p>c) amend the southern boundary of the town with Eynesbury Hardwicke parish to run along the A428;</p> <p>d) amend the eastern boundary of the town to incorporate part of the St Neots Rural parish;</p> <p>e) remaining parts of St Neots Rural and Eynesbury Hardwicke could either be formed into a new parish or be added to Abbotsley parish. (Electoral arrangements and submission attached.)</p>
33	St Neots Rural	Martin Land St Neots and District Liberal Democrats	Development of Loves Farm will turn this parish into an urban area and effectively become part of St Neots. Propose a new ward, St Neots Cromwell Ward (after the Cromwell Plantation) with two members on the Town Council.
34	St Neots/Eynesbury Hardwicke	Revenue Services	Properties are split by parishes.
35	St Neots/Little Paxton	Revenue Services	Island site is split by parishes.
36	St Neots/St Neots Rural	Revenue Services	Need to take account of east of railway line development.

No.	Parish	Consultee	Summary
37	St. Neots	Ian Taylor Chairman St. Neots Liberal Democrats	<p>(a) Agree with Town Council proposals, but not make up of wards and suggests –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New estate 'Eynesbury Manor' be made into its own ward with one Councillor. The boundary being Barford Road, the Brook which runs between the school, the A428 and the river; • that Loves Farm have two Councillors; • new ward be made up within Eynesbury, the boundaries of which are Hen Brook, Cromwell Road and Cambridge Street. This new area could be called Manor Farm <p>(b) ask the population of Little Paxton if they would like to join St. Neots.</p>
38	St. Neots/Eynesbury Hardwicke	LLPG Team	Small part of Eynesbury Manor is in St. Neots, whilst the remainder is in Eynesbury Hardwicke. Across from Eynesbury Manor are a couple of roads split between two parishes.
39	St. Neots/St. Neots Rural	LLPG Team	East of railway line development needs to be taken into account.
40	Stow Longa	David Stowell Clerk to Stow Longa Parish Council	Move the boundary with Kimbolton and Stonley Parish so that Avalon, Kimbolton Road, Rookery Farm and Station House, Kimbolton Road are all within Stow Longa parish.
41	The Offords	Malcolm and Sheila Reece New Road Offord Cluny	Amalgamate Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Councils into a single parish council with 13 parish councillors and no wards.
42	The Offords	Steven Claydon Bramley Drive Offord D'Arcy	Amalgamate Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Councils into a single parish council.

No.	Parish	Consultee	Summary
43	The Offords	Graham Sherlock High Street Offord D'Arcy (Retired Chairman and Parish Councillor of Offord D'Arcy Parish Council)	Amalgamate Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Councils into a single Parish Council with 13 Parish Councillors and no wards. (Submission attached)
44	The Offords	Liam Small Chairman Offord Cluny Parish Council	Amalgamate Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Councils into a single Parish Council, but retain names.
45	The Offords	Mr and Mrs Brown High Street Offord Cluny	Amalgamate Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Councils into a single Parish Council.
46	The Offords	Jenny Griffiths Apple Close Offord D'Arcy	Amalgamate Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Councils into a single Parish Council.
47	The Offords	LLPG Team	112 and 114 High Street are all in Offord D'Arcy, but line in Gazetteer suggests that they should be in Offord Cluny
48	The Offords	Martin Land St Neots and District Liberal Democrats	Amalgamate Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Councils into a single parish council.
49	Warboys	Roy Reeves Clerk to Warboys Parish Council	<p>a) Move boundary to incorporate the water tower, currently part of Pidley-cum-Fenton parish;</p> <p>b) Properties in Wistow Fen form part of the parish of Wistow but have no vehicular access to Wistow without going through Warboys or Ramsey – transfer properties to Warboys;</p> <p>c) Move the field boundary between Warboys and Wistow so that properties on both sides of Puddock Road are located in Warboys. (Submission attached)</p>

No.	Parish	Consultee	Summary
50	Winwick	Denise Johnson Clerk to Winwick Parish Meeting	Keep Winwick Parish Meetings and not group the parish with surrounding parishes.
51	Woodhurst	Shirley Firth Clerk to Woodhurst Parish Council	<p>a) Move the parish boundary between the Houghton and Wyton parish and Woodhurst parish to the east to follow the Old Ramsey Road up to the boundary of Wyton Airfield;</p> <p>b) Amend an anomaly to the north of Woodhurst parish on the boundary with Old Hurst – move Woodhurst boundary north up to the Old Hurst Road.</p>
52	Yelling	Ouida Ascroft Clerk to Yelling Parish Council	There be no change to the existing parish boundary or electoral arrangements.



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17 July 2006

Mrs Lisa Jablonska
Central Services Manager
Administration Division
Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
Cams
PE29 3TN

Dear Mrs Jablonska

Parish Electoral Review

I write with further reference to your letter of 24th March 2006 in which you consulted this Council on the proposed Parish Electoral Review.

At this meeting of 12th July 2006 the Town Council agreed to make the following submission to you in respect of the Electoral arrangements for St Neots.

1) The Town boundaries be amended as follows:

the western boundary of the town be amended so that land to the north of the B645 and west of the A1 be transferred to Hail Weston Parish (Map 1);

the north western boundary of the town with Lt Paxton, from the River Kym to the sewage works be regularised to run along the centre of the navigable channel (northern reach) of the River Ouse or southern reach to rejoin the existing boundary at Gallow Brook (Map 2);

the southern boundary of the town with Eynesbury Hardwicke Parish be amended to run along the A428 road co-extensive with the County Boundary up to the railway bridge (Map 3);

the eastern boundary of the town be amended to incorporate part of the St Neots Rural Parish. The boundary should run along the A428 road from the Railway Bridge to the roundabout with B1428. It could then continue north following the route of the Roman road to the east of Monks Hardwick to Gallows Brook. It can then follow the brook westwards until it meets with the current boundary at the railway line. Alternatively members felt that the boundary between Eynesbury Hardwicke and St Neots Rural, and then north to Gallows Brook (Map 4).

- 2) Members felt that the remaining parts of St Neots Rural and Eynesbury Hardwicke could either be formed into a new parish (Wingtringham or Caldecote) or be added to the Abbotsley Parish.

The warding arrangements for the town are as follows:

Polling district	voters
BG Eynesbury Hardwicke (town)	1353
EH St Neots (Eynesbury)	2080

3 Town Councillors with a present average of 1144 voters per councillor, but with 300 more houses currently being built in BG this should add another 600 voters to bring the average up to 1344

EF St Neots (Eynesbury)	2057
EG St Neots (Eynesbury)	1834

3 Town councillors with an average of 1297 voters per councillor.

EJ St Neots Priory Park	1854
EK St Neots Priory Park	254
EL St Neots Priory Park	2327
EM St Neots Priory Park	166

4 Town councillors with an average of 1150 voters per councillor, but again with developments on stream in several sites and planning permission granted for several others and further potential windfall sites in the offing this will change rapidly to about 1300 votes per councillor in about 3-4 years.

EN St Neots Eaton Ford 4003

EP St Neots Eaton Ford 1349

4 councillors with an average of 1338 voters per councillor

ER St Neots Eaton Socon 2501

ES St Neots Eaton Socon 1710

3 councillors with an average of 1403 voters per councillor.

ET St Neots rural 52

BF Eynesbury Hardwicke (Spinney) 46

1 councillor

I enclose a copy of the District Council I-2700 scale map with the suggested ward and parish boundaries marked.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter and if you could advise mf of the timetable for the rest of this review process.

Yours sincerely



PP Philip Devonald
Town Clerk

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ST NEOTS
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26th May 2006

Lisa Jablonska
Central Services Manager
Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
HUNTINGDON
PE29 3TN

Review of Parish Arrangements : Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parishes

Dear Ms Jablonska

I have recently retired after 14 years as Parish Councillor for Offord D'Arcy, 6 of them as Chairman. I concluded some time ago that it would be best that the parishes of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy amalgamate.

Although it is a little lengthy, I attach in entirety a paper I presented to the Clerk to both Parish Councillors.

In conclusion I support the amalgamation of the two Parish Councils into one. There would be 13 councillors, and no wards.

Yours sincerely



Graham Sherlock

Review of Parish Boundaries in Huntingdonshire: Recommendation to Offord Darcy Parish Council by Graham Sherlock

Background

From the HDC publication "District Wide" I note that a review of Parish Boundaries is underway, and representations are required by the end of July 2006.

During my time as Chairman of Offord Darcy Parish Council I asked HDC as to when such a review would take place and what was the process of having one Parish Council, but the reaction of Offord Cluny Parish Council at the time was hostile. As a result, I resolved not to raise the issue again until the end of the current term (i.e. now), or when HDC themselves undertook a review. Therefore now seems an ideal time for both Parish Councils to examine the subject seriously.

Objectives

I see no point in making change for change's sake, so I would see the paramount objective of any boundary change as being a positive improvement in the way in which the Parish Councils can serve the residents of The Offords.

Specifically, this means:

- ❖ A cost saving to the residents of The Offords
- ❖ Avoidance of duplicated time and effort by Councillors and the Clerk.
- ❖ More effective representation to other bodies.
- ❖ Parish Councillors continuing to represent local views
- ❖ The retention of the ancient names of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy / Darcy

Proposal

My proposal is the simple amalgamation of the existing two Parish Councils into one named "The Parish Council of Offord Cluny and Offord Darcy". I do not propose ward boundaries. The number of Parish Councillors (which has to be odd) would be 13.

Arguments in favour

1. Cost savings: The Clerk's time would be reduced because of a reduction in duplicated effort – dealing with incoming and outgoing post, liaising with two Chairmen, attending two Council meetings, arranging Joint Meetings etc. Only one venue would need paying for. Only one grass cutting contract. There would be less need for Councillors from both Parish Councils attending briefings. In my view, if the Councils decide on the Quality Council route, the overheads are such that it only makes financial sense if there is one Parish Council.
2. Councillor's time: Many, if not most, existing agenda items concern the village as a whole, yet time is spent discussing separately causing duplicated effort. There seem to be an increasing number of items of common concern leading to Joint Working Parties or Joint Parish Council Meetings. These could be avoided with one Council.
3. Representation to other bodies: A single view from one Parish Council would have more effect than that of two smaller bodies. At times the Parish Councils have given differing and even opposing views, and this had undoubtedly weakened the case of "The Offords". The role of Parish Councils is changing – proposals are afoot to provide more powers - and it is the duty of Councillors to ensure the most effective representation possible to the District Council, County Council, Police, Highways Agency, Railtrack etc. In particular, we are now getting closer to the "meat" of the new Local Development Framework, and in my view a common representation would have far more influence.

Arguments against

1. Loss of local representation: I have little sympathy for this argument. There are no other village organisations split between parishes. Even the parish church is amalgamated with Buckden. There is an option to have one Parish Council with "wards" but I believe this route would lessen the effect of one Parish Council reflecting the views of what is, after all, a compact village community. It would lead to petty views and arguments, as can be seen with Town Councils and District Councils. It is also fraught with difficulty – for example, what would the number of councillors be reflecting the 60/40 population split, yet retaining an odd total? If it is felt that grass roots representation is being lost, one solution is for certain Councillors to be charged with reporting on issues relating to a particular area – rather like the "watches" of Neighbourhood Watch.
2. Loss of ancient Parish names: I have a great deal of sympathy with this problem, having spent a lot of time on village history research. The existing boundaries not only derive from the parochial boundaries of 1896 when civil parishes were formed, but go back beyond Domesday to Saxon times. I feel strongly that at least the names should be retained as "The Parish Council of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy (or Darcy)".

Other issues

If the Parish Councils are to be amalgamated, there are a number of other issues that come to mind that need to be resolved. These need to be thought about sooner rather than later:

1. Delegated trustees: both Parish Councils delegate trustees to village organisations such as Village Hall and Millennium Green. The relevant constitutions need to be consulted. The Offord Darcy Consolidated Charities has been wound up, but the Cluny Poors Charity might provide a challenge.
2. Existing loans and dedicated funds: these would have to be honoured by the new body. A particular issue is the substantial funds built up by Offord Darcy Parish Council for recreational purposes, until recently reflected in a larger "rate" on their parishioners. My opinion is that the history should be forgotten, and the loans and funds be pooled together for the benefit of the village as a whole.
3. Special obligations: these again would have to be honoured by the new body. In the case of Darcy, there are the graveyard, cemetery and churchyard.
4. Capital equipment: ownership would need to be carried forward to the new body. In the case of Darcy, there are the shredder and trailer (not actually owned), grass strimmer and hedge trimmer.

Graham Sherlock
April 2006

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Warboys Parish Council

Clerk: R. Reeves, M.A., D.M.S.
Tel: Ramsey (01487) 823562
E-mail: roy.reeves@warboyspc.freeserve.co.uk

2 Blenheim Close,
Warboys,
Huntingdon,
Cambs., PE28 2XF.

Mrs L Jablonski,
Central Services Manager,
Huntingdonshire District Council,
Pathfinder House,
St Mary's Street,
Huntingdon.
Cambs. PE29 3TN.

My ref:

Your ref:

CenS/LJJ/ME/F&GP/E/4
21st May 2006

Dear Lisa,

PARISH ELECTORAL REVIEW

I refer to your letter dated 24th March 2006 inviting comments as part of the District Council's review of parish electoral arrangements in Huntingdonshire.

The Parish Council recommend that some changes are made to extend the boundaries of Warboys Parish as follows:

New Road

When New Road (A141) was constructed, this separated a small piece of Pidley-cum-Fenton Parish which was left situated to the west of the road and containing Warboys water tower. Warboys Parish Council is regularly consulted on planning applications and proposals concerning the tower on the assumption that it is located in Warboys and those writing to the Council have to be re-directed to Pidley-cum-Fenton Parish Council. Although the land does not contain any property other than the water tower, it would be logical for the boundary to be changed so that this follows the line of New Road.

Wistow Fen

Wistow Fen forms part of the Parish of Wistow but contains a number of properties that have no vehicular access to the village of Wistow without having to travel through either Warboys or Ramsey. It seems illogical that those properties should remain part of Wistow and the Council recommend that all those that cannot be accessed direct by vehicle from Wistow Toll should be transferred to Warboys. As the properties affected cannot be identified precisely from the map supplied, I will talk to local people about detailed access arrangements and let you have further details shortly.

Puddock Road

Most properties in Puddock Road are located in the parish of Warboys. The boundary between Warboys and Wistow follows field boundaries, so that properties on both sides of Puddock Road are located in Warboys. Further north however, the boundary between Warboys and Ramsey follows the

line of Puddock Road itself. This means that neighbours are in separate parishes and properties with a Warboys postal address are located in Ramsey with which they have little affinity. The Parish Council recommend that the boundary be changed so that it follows field boundaries and those properties to the north west of and accessed from Puddock Road (as far as the road linking Puddock Road with Ramsey Hollow) are transferred to Warboys.

I have marked the suggested changes on the attached map, subject to further investigation in respect of Wistow Toll as referred to above. I write to you again in this respect shortly.

I should be grateful if the District Council would make the changes proposed to the boundaries of Warboys as part of the review.

Yours sincerely,



R. Reeves,
Clerk.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ELECTORATE AND FIVE YEAR FORECAST

Parish or Town Council/Parish Meeting	Number of Councillors	Electorate Dec-05	No. of Electors per Councillor	Parish wards	No. of councillors	Electorate	No. of Electors per Councillor	Electorate mid-2011	District Ward
Abbotsley	7	332	47					340	Gransden & The Offords
Abbots Ripton	6	245	41					250	Upwood & The Raveleys
Alconbury	11	1162	106					1180	Alconbury & The Stukeleys
Alconbury Weston	7	580	83					590	Alconbury & The Stukeleys
Alwalton	5	258	52					260	Elton & Folksworth
Barham & Woolley	5	42	8					40	Ellington
Bluntisham	11	1483	135					1500	Earith
Brampton	15	3716	248					3,780	Brampton
Brington & Molesworth	5	187	37					190	Ellington
Broughton	7	198	28					200	Somersham
Buckden	15	2175	145					2210	Buckden
Buckworth	5	93	19					90	Ellington
Bury	9	1257	140					1270	Warboys & Bury
Bythorn & Keyston	5	225	45					230	Ellington
Catworth	9	268	30					270	Ellington
Chesterton	Meeting	100						100	Elton & Folksworth
Colne	9	626	70					660	Somersham
Conington	5	163	33					170	Sawtry
Covington	Meeting	68						70	Kimbolton & Staughton
Denton & Caldecote	Meeting	48						50	Stilton
Diddington	Meeting	72						70	Buckden
Earith	11	1241	113					1260	Earith
Easton	5	129	26					130	Ellington
Ellington	7	491	70					500	Ellington
Elton	11	555	50					560	Elton & Folksworth
Eynesbury Hardwicke	9	1408	156	Spinney Ward	3	46	15	50	Gransden & The Offords
Farcet	11	1348	123	Town Ward	6	1362	227	1380	St. Neots Eynesbury
Fenstanton	15	2452	164					1370	Yaxley & Farcet
Folksworth & Washingley	9	750	83					2490	Fenstanton
Godmanchester	15	4571	305					760	Elton & Folksworth
								5090	Godmanchester

Parish or Town Council/Parish Meeting	Number of Councillors	Electorate Dec-05	No. of Electors per Councillor	Parish wards	No. of councillors	Electorate	No. of Electors per Councillor	Electorate mid-2011	District Ward
Great & Little Gidding	8	265	33					270	Sawtry
Glatton	5	251	50					250	Sawtry
Grafham	7	463	66					470	Brampton
Great Gransden	9	761	85					770	Gransden & The Offords
Great Paxton	9	782	87					790	Gransden & The Offords
Great Staughton	11	657	60					670	Kimbolton & Staughton
Haddon	Meeting	39						40	Elton & Folksworth
Hail Weston	7	482	69					490	Kimbolton & Staughton
Hamerton	Meeting	74						80	Sawtry
Hemingford Abbots	7	510	73					520	The Hemingfords
Hemingford Grey	13	2075	160					2110	The Hemingfords
Hilton	9	755	84					780	The Hemingfords
Holme	9	471	52					490	Stilton
Holywell-cum-Needingworth	13	1962	151					1990	Earith
Houghton & Wyton	13	2247	173	Houghton & Wyton Ward		1292		1470	The Hemingfords
				Airfield Ward		955		970	Upwood & The Raveleys
* Huntingdon	16	14328	896	West No. 1	5	5773	1155	6880	Huntingdon East/Huntingdon West
				West No. 2	3	1519	506		Huntingdon North
				North	8	7036	880		Huntingdon East/Huntingdon West
Kimbolton & Stonely	11	1065	97					1080	Kimbolton & Staughton
Kings Ripton	5	141	28					140	Upwood & The Raveleys
Leighton Bromswold	7	164	23					170	Ellington
Little Paxton	15	2438	163					2710	Little Paxton
Morborne	Meeting	22						20	Elton & Folksworth
Offord Cluny	7	401	57					410	Gransden & The Offords
Offord D'Arcy	7	634	91					640	Gransden & The Offords
Oldhurst	7	214	31					220	Somersham
Old Weston	7	158	23					160	Ellington
Perry	9	578	64					580	Brampton

Parish or Town Council/Parish Meeting	Number of Councillors	Electorate Dec-05	No. of Electors per Councillor	Parish wards	No. of councillors	Electorate	No. of Electors per Councillor	Electorate mid-2011	District Ward
Pidley-cum-Fenton	7	302	43					310	Somersham
Ramsey	17	6424	378					6590	Ramsey
St. Ives	16	12231	765	East	6	5097	850	5190	St. Ives East
				South	6	4851	809	4980	St. Ives South
				West	4	2283	571	2490	St. Ives West
St. Neots	18	20177	1,121	Eaton Ford	3	4011	1337	5440	St. Neots Eaton Ford
				Eaton Socon	5	5567	1113	4290	St. Neots Eaton Socon
				Eynesbury	6	6409	1068	6840	St. Neots Eynesbury
				Priory Park	4	4190	1048	4800	St. Neots Priory Park
St. Neots Rural	5	52	10					760	Gransden & The Offords
Sawtry	15	4080	272					4150	Sawtry
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	7	343	49					350	Elton & Folksworth
Somersham	15	2910	194					2950	Somersham
Southoe & Midloe	7	321	46					330	Buckden
Spaldwick	7	436	62					440	Ellington
Steeple Gidding	Meeting	19						20	Sawtry
Stilton	11	1841	167					1870	Stilton
Stow Longa	5	97	19					100	Ellington
The Stukeleys	16	1232	77	Stukeleys Ward	13	774	60	1500	Alconbury & The Stukeleys
				Hinchingbrooke Ward	3	458	153	470	Huntingdon West
Tetworth	Meeting	33						30	Gransden & The Offords
Tilbrook	7	201	29					200	Kimbolton & Staughton
Toseland	5	65	13					70	Gransden & The Offords
Upton & Coppingford	5	178	36					180	Sawtry
Upwood & The Raveleys	11	932	85					950	Upwood & The Raveleys
Warboys	15	2997	200					3050	Warboys & Bury
Wareley	5	207	41					210	Gransden & The Offords
Water Newton	Meeting	53						50	Elton & Folksworth
Winwick	Meeting	80						80	Sawtry
Wistow	7	429	61					440	Warboys & Bury
Woodhurst	7	296	42					300	Somersham
Woodwalton	5	168	34					170	Upwood & The Raveleys

Parish or Town Council/Parish Meeting	Number of Councillors	Electorate Dec-05	No. of Electors per Councillor	Parish wards	No. of councillors	Electorate	No. of Electors per Councillor	Parish wards	No. of councillors	Electorate	No. of Electors per Councillor	Electorate mid-2011	District Ward
Yaxley	13	6259	482									6910	Warboys & Bury
Yelling	7	235	34									240	Gransden & The Offords
TOTAL		120,778											

*Under the District of Huntingdonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002 the existing wards of the parish of Huntingdon are abolished. The parish is divided into three parish wards bearing the names Huntingdon East, Huntingdon North and Huntingdon West. Each parish ward is coterminous with the District Wards bearing the same name. The number of Councillors for each parish ward is outlined below –

Parish or Town Council/Parish Meeting	Number of Councillors	Electorate Dec-05	No. of Electors per Councillor	Parish wards	No. of councillors	Electorate	No. of Electors per Councillor	Parish wards	No. of councillors	Electorate	No. of Electors per Councillor	Electorate mid-2011	District Ward
Huntingdon	16	14328	896	East	8			East	8			6880	Huntingdon East
				North	4			North	4			4010	Huntingdon North
				West	4			West	4			4400	Huntingdon West