

A meeting of the **ELECTIONS PANEL** will be held in **MEETING ROOM 1, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST. MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON** on **MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2007** at **4:00 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 15th December 2006.

**Mrs L Jablonska
388004**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

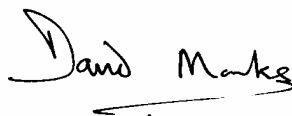
To receive from Members, declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any Agenda Item. Please see Notes 1 and 2 below.

3. PARISH ELECTORAL REVIEW - UPDATE (Pages 3 - 8)

To consider a report by the Head of Administration detailing further issues arising from the parish electoral review of the District.

**Mrs L Jablonska
388004**

Dated this 9th day of February 2007



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 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 in The Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon on Friday, 15 December 2006.

PRESENT: Councillor D Harty – Chairman.
Councillors J E Garner, A N Gilbert and K Reynolds.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M F Newman and T D Sanderson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor P J Downes.

12. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 2nd October 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

14. PARISH ELECTORAL REVIEW - CONSULTATION

Further to Minute No. 11, the Panel discussed further issues arising from the parish electoral review of the District. Having been advised that the draft proposals had been published for public consultation and circulated to interested parties, Members' attention was drawn to parishes with parish meetings. In so doing, the Panel considered the amalgamation of such parishes to create larger parishes to enable a parish council to be established.

Having discussed preparations for further publicity, the Panel

RESOLVED

- (a) that, subject to consultation with Members of the Panel, further information be circulated to interested parties on the proposals for parishes with parish meetings detailing the various options and outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the proposals;
- (b) that a public notice on the consultation exercise be prepared for publication in newspapers circulating in the District and sent to all parishes for display in their parishes; and
- (c) that the consultation period be extended to allow for further consultation on the proposals outlined in a) above.

15. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

(The Chairman announced that he proposed to allow consideration of the following Item as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B(4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable the appointment of a Vice-Chairman following a review of the membership of the Panel)

RESOLVED

that Councillor A N Gilbert be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Chairman

PARISH ELECTORAL REVIEW - UPDATE (Report by Head of Administration)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report was to advise Members of the present position in connection with the parish electoral review of the District and to address any issues that have arisen thus far following the publication of draft proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Panel held on 2nd October 2006, Members finalised draft proposals for changes to parish boundaries and electoral arrangements. The public consultation exercise on these draft proposals commenced in December 2006.
- 2.2 Following the publication, it was necessary to convene a further meeting of the Panel on 15th December 2006 to address parish meetings as they had been omitted from the earlier consultation. Proposals for the parish meetings were finalised and circulated for public consultation mid-January 2007. As a result of this omission, the consultation period deadline was extended to the end of March 2007.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Arising from the consultation, a large volume of representations were received in respect of the proposals for the Ramsey and Bury parish boundaries and it was considered necessary to re-visit these proposals prior to the end of the consultation period. As a result, alternative proposals have been drafted for this area and Members are invited to determine which proposal is the most appropriate for further consultation. Maps will be circulated at the meeting.
- 3.2 In order to update the Panel on the present position of the parish electoral review, attached as an Appendix to the report is a summary of representations received to-date. Members are invited to consider whether any of the draft proposals need further consideration or investigation prior to the end of the consultation period.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Having regard to the representations received to-date following the publication of the draft proposals for changes to parish boundaries and electoral arrangements, Members of the Panel are invited to consider –
- (a) the determination of an alternative proposal for Ramsey and Bury parishes; and
 - (b) whether any of the draft proposals need further consideration.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minutes and Reports of the meetings of the Elections Panel – 22nd August, 2nd October and 15th December 2006.

Contact Officer – Lisa Jablonska
Central Services Manager
(01480) 388004

Parish	Representation received	Comments
Abbots Ripton	Abbots Ripton Parish Council	Oppose amalgamation of Abbots Ripton parish with Kings Ripton parish – loss of identity for village, no problem with filling vacancies, against reduction in number of councillors. No objection to parish boundary changes – however suggest moving Bevills Wood into the parish. Concern expressed regarding clerks roles of both parishes – who assumes responsibility?
Bury	Residents of, Foundry Way, Grenfell Road, Lioncroft Cottages, Lion Walk and The Terrace and Councillor P L E Bucknell.	Oppose proposals for changes to parish boundaries between Ramsey and Bury – increased Council Tax, properties form historical part of Bury, participated in campaigns for playing field and village hall, loss of community
Easton	Five residents of Easton	Oppose amalgamation of Easton parish with Ellington parish – different sized villages and face very different local issues. Easton has a vibrant community life and never shared close affinities with Ellington.
Ellington	Mr M Jones, Ellington	Oppose amalgamation of Easton parish with Ellington parish – unlikely to result in anyone from Easton being elected thus disenfranchising Easton residents on important issues such as planning over which they will have very little say.
	Dr B N K Davis, Easton	Oppose proposal for boundary change between Ellington and Spaldwick (map 21) follows natural boundary of Ellington Brook and fear it would disappear if both sides of the Brook became part of Spaldwick parish.
Fenstanton	Councillor Mrs J Chandler	Oppose proposal for boundary changes between Fenstanton and St Ives – impact of removing 400 houses from the parish will make such services as the village post office vulnerable.
Folksworth & Washingley	Folksworth & Washingley Parish Council	Prefer to retain existing parish council size of 9 rather than reduce to 7 as no difficulties in maintaining membership.
Great Gransden	Great Gransden Parish Council	Object to reduction in council size from 9 to 7. (Is not proposed that the numbers be reduced).

Parish	Representation received	Comments
Godmanchester	Godmanchester Parish Council	Support proposal to increase council size from 15 to 17.
Hemingford Grey	Hemingford Grey Parish Council	Oppose proposal to amend (map 4) southern boundary of St Ives parish near The Dolphin Hotel but has no objection to amending the boundary near Holt Island.
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth	Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish Council	Oppose proposal to amend (map 5) boundary and suggest an alternative proposal to follow the physical boundary of Harrison Way.
Huntingdon	Huntingdon Town Council	Support the proposals for boundary changes to incorporate the new Northbridge development and Hinchingsbrooke Ward of The Stukeleys. However object to the increase in council size to 19 and would prefer to remain at 16.
Huntingdon	Councillor T D Sanderson	Oppose proposals to include the Northbridge development in Huntingdon.
Holme	Holme Parish Council	Object to reduction in council size from 9 to 7. (Is not proposed that the numbers be reduced).
Hail Weston	Hail Weston Parish Council	No objection to the parish boundary proposals but object to a reduction in council size from 7 to 5 due to meetings being inquorate, jeopardise Quality Status and overburdening of councillors with more duties to share around between fewer members.
Kings Ripton	Kings Ripton Parish Council	Oppose amalgamation of Abbots Ripton parish with Kings Ripton parish – loss of separate identities, Abbots Ripton will end up with larger share of councillors, retain a fully elected parish council and loss of clerk.
Leighton Bromswold	Five residents of Leighton Bromswold	Oppose the amalgamation of Leighton Bromswold with Barham & Woolley and Buckworth – each member representing the smaller parishes would carry a lot more responsibility for their own village, taking responsibility for issues in unfamiliar parishes, issues of each village may be lost in a merged parish council, lead to a dilution of the local voice as currently understand local issues intimately and no obvious links between villages.
Little Paxton	Little Paxton Parish Council	Support proposed boundary changes to include the island site within Little Paxton, but oppose the reduction in council size from 15 to 13 – already achieves a good spread of representation and doesn't overburden members.
Stow Longa	Three residents of Stow Longa	Oppose the amalgamation of Stow Longa and Spaldwick – few common interests, smaller village may not be represented and is not democratic, different issues affecting each village, separate identities and Stow Longa may lose it's voice as the larger village may take over.

Parish	Representation received	Comments
St Neots	St Neots Town Council	Support the proposals for St Neots.
The Stukeleys	The Stukeleys Parish Council	Supports the proposals for changes to parish boundaries but opposes the reduction of council size from 13 to 7 and requests that a minimum of 10 councillors is required to properly discharge its functions.
Woolley	Mrs M Harris, Woolley	Oppose the amalgamation of Leighton Bromswold with Barham & Woolley and Buckworth.
Warboys	Warboys Parish Council	Support the proposals for Warboys.

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