

Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Reorganisation of Community Governance Order
- Holme

Meeting/Date: Corporate Governance Committee – 14th
September 2021
Council – 22nd September 2021

Executive Portfolio: Executive Leader, Councillor R Fuller

Report by: Elections and Democratic Services Manager

Ward affected: Stilton, Folksworth and Washingley

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Community Governance Review of Holme following the request from the Parish Council to increase the size from 7 to 9 parish councillors.

The Corporate Governance Committee at their meeting on 22nd January 2020 approved the increase in membership and Council at their meeting on 26th February 2020 authorised the making of a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. The Order would have taken effect from an election to be held in May 2020 but unfortunately due to the Coronavirus pandemic all polls were postponed until May 2021.

Following consultation with the Parish Council on the preferred option to take this forward, it was requested that this be delayed until the scheduled parish council elections in May 2022. It is therefore necessary to make a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order for Holme Parish Council to reflect these changes.

Recommendation:

The Committee is

RECOMMENDED

to note the delay in the implementation of the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order for Holme Parish Council to increase the membership from 7 to 9 councillors.

The Council is

RECOMMENDED

to approve the drafting of a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order to be made in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 for Holme Parish Council to take effect from the scheduled elections in May 2022.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Community Governance Review of Holme following the request from the Parish Council to increase the size from 7 to 9 parish councillors and to authorise the making of a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order for Holme Parish Council to reflect the changes that resulted from the postponement of the elections in May 2021.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Corporate Governance Committee at their meeting on 22nd January 2020 approved the increase in membership of Holme Parish Council from 7 to 9 parish councillors following a Community Governance Review undertaken in 2019. The Council at their meeting on 26th February 2020 authorised the making of a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order for Holme Parish Council.
- 2.2 The Order was due to take effect from an election to be held in May 2020 but as Members will be aware all polls were postponed in May 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The implications of such meant that it was necessary to consult with Holme Parish Council as to their preferred course of action to implement the increase in membership.

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED & CONSULTATION

- 3.1 If the Order had taken effect from May 2020 this would have been an election held out of cycle and resulted in a two-year term for the parish councillors until the next scheduled parish council election in May 2022. As these polls were postponed it was necessary to re-visit the decision taken and consider the options in the drafting of the Order. The options presented to the Parish Council were as follows –
- Option 1 – hold an election in May 2021 and councillors be elected for a one-year term before resuming the normal cycle of scheduled elections in May 2022;
 - Option 2 – hold an election in May 2021 and councillors be elected for a five-year term before resuming the normal cycle of scheduled elections in May 2026; or
 - Option 3 – hold an election in May 2022 in the normal cycle of scheduled elections.
- 3.2 Holme Parish Council at their meeting on 19th January 2021 confirmed their preference for Option 3, partly attributed to cost implications but also mindful that at the time the May 2021 elections could still be postponed or poorly attended.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolved power from the Secretary of State to principal councils to carry out our community governance reviews and put in place or make changes to

local governance arrangements. The Community Governance Review was undertaken in accordance with this Act.

- 4.2 To conclude the outcome of the review, the Council will be required to make an amended Reorganisation of Community Governance Order to implement the increase in membership from 7 to 9 parish councillors on Holme Parish Council.

5. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 5.1 To conclude the outcome of the Community Governance Review undertaken for Holme Parish Council to increase their membership from 7 to 9 parish councillors and the final making of the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order to take effect from the scheduled elections in May 2022.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
Communities and Local Government - Guidance on Community Governance
Reviews March 2010](#)

Minutes of Holme Parish Council dated 16th July 2019 and 19th January 2021
and request from Holme Parish Council dated 18th July 2019

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