
Parish Council Orders

Report by the Head of Administration

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the District Council has a duty to ensure that parishes continue to reflect local communities and that the related electoral arrangements secure effective and convenient local government. The District Council has recently concluded its review of parish arrangements in Huntingdonshire and as a result approved a new scale of parish council representation which recommends levels of representation in relation to electorate size.

2. CHANGES TO PARISH ELECTORATE ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 Recommendations for changes to parish electorate arrangements were approved by the Council at their meeting held on 5th December 2007. This has resulted in a change in the council size of certain parishes and it is necessary for Orders to be made to implement these changes. Under the Council's Constitution, the making of an Order under the Act is reserved to the Council.
- 2.2 The new scale of parish council representation was devised to reflect the growth in the size of communities in Huntingdonshire as the previous scale had been in existence since 1974 without change. The changes to council size also reflect the problems encountered by smaller parishes from time to time in attracting sufficient candidates for election when they have had to resort to co-option to fill their full complement of members. The increase in council size of some of the larger parishes is as a result of a significant growth in population over the years and the parish councils affected have supported the proposals.
- 2.3 From a practical prospective and to help defray the cost, it is preferable if the election for the additional seats or reduction of seats on the parish councils could coincide with the next scheduled parish elections.

3. OFFORD CLUNY AND OFFORD D'ARCY PARISH COUNCILS

- 3.1 As part of the of the parish review, the parishes of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy have requested to be amalgamated and operate with a single parish council. Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy currently have separate parish councils but are served by the same parish clerk. The Offords already view themselves as one community and mostly all of the village organisations reflect this.

- 3.2 Although the Council approved this recommendation for amalgamation, it remains subject to determination by the Secretary of State. As both parishes are keen to formalise these arrangements at the earliest opportunity, as a temporary expedient an Order can be made under the Act to group the parishes of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy under a common parish council.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 As a result of a review of parish arrangements and approval of a new scale of parish council representation, the Council are therefore

RECOMMENDED

to make Orders under the relevant legislation to –

- (a) decrease the membership of Catworth Parish from 9 to 7 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;**
- (b) decrease the membership of Tilbrook Parish Council from 7 to 5 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;**
- (c) increase the membership of Godmanchester Town Council from 15 to 17 councillors with effect from 1st May 2008;**
- (d) decrease the membership of Holme Parish Council from 9 to 7 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;**
- (e) decrease the membership of Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;**
- (f) decrease the membership of Elton Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors with effect from 6th May 2010;**
- (g) increase the membership of Yaxley Parish Council from 13 to 17 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;**
- (h) decrease the membership of Great and Little Gidding Parish Council from 8 to 7 councillors with effect from 1st May 2008;**
- (i) decrease the membership of Great Staughton Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011; and**
- (j) group the parishes of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy under the common parish council of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Council consisting of 11 councillors with effect from 1st May 2008.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Correspondence on file F&GP/E/4 held in the office of the Head of Administration

Local Government and Rating Act 1997

Minutes and Report of the meeting of the Council – 5th December 2007

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