
Parish Meeting Functions

Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There are a total of 13 parishes in Huntingdonshire where the population is too small for them to have a separate parish council. Nevertheless, the parish meeting of each parish (i.e. a meeting of all local government electors of that parish) does have some limited powers, albeit less than those of a parish council.
- 1.2 Members will be familiar with the principle of ultra vires in local government by which a local authority, including a parish meeting, can only perform the functions conferred upon it by legislation.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: SECTION 109

- 2.1 The above section enables a District Council, on request, to confer on a parish meeting any of the functions of a parish council.
- 2.2 Covington Parish Meeting have requested the District Council to grant additional powers to them to enable them to contribute to the maintenance of the village hall, pay their clerk and offer grants to local organisations. The relevant powers are:-
- ◆ Section 133 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the provision and furnishing of buildings for public meetings or contributing towards the expenses incurred by any other person or organisation in acquiring, providing or furnishing such a building.
 - ◆ Section 112 of the Act which enables a local authority to appoint such officers as they think necessary to carry out their functions and on such terms and conditions as they think fit.
 - ◆ Section 137 of the Act which enables a parish council to incur expenditure in the interests of their area or its inhabitants where they do not have a specific power otherwise to do so.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 As the District Council has the power to grant the requested functions to Covington Parish Meeting, it is

RECOMMENDED

that an Order be made under Section 109 of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer upon Covington Parish Meeting the functions contained in Sections 112, 133 and 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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