King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, HP6 5AW 01895 837236 democraticservices@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk www.chiltern.gov.uk



Governance and Electoral Arrangements Committee

Tuesday, 22 October 2019 at 6.30 pm

Large & Small Committee Room, King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham

AGENDA

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- 1 Evacuation Procedure
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Minutes (Pages 3 8)

To approve the minutes of the Governance and Electoral Arrangements Committee held on 27 June 2018 and 15 May 2019.

- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Preparation for possible snap election (Verbal Report)
- 6 Polling District and Polling Places Review Final Recommendations (*Pages 9 10*)

Appendix 1 - Polling Station Analysis (Pages 11 - 16)

Appendix 2 - Comments and submissions (Pages 17 - 18)

Appendix 3 - Polling Places Returning Officer recommendations (Pages 19 - 22)

7 Exclusion of the Public (if required)

To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Note: All reports will be updated orally at the meeting if appropriate and may be supplemented by additional reports at the Chairman's discretion.

Membership: Governance and Electoral Arrangements Committee

Councillors: D Varley (Chairman)

D Bray
J Burton
I Darby
P Jones
N Rose
M Shaw
M Stannard
H Wallace
E Walsh
J Waters

Date of next meeting - Wednesday, 5 February 2020

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CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the GOVERNANCE AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE (CDC) held on 27 JUNE 2018

PRESENT: Councillor D Varley - Chairman

Councillors: I Darby

P Jones N Rose M Shaw E Walsh J Waters

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors J Burton and M Stannard

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors D Phillips and J Rush

9 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Governance and Electoral Arrangements Committee held on 30 January and 15 May 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The Committee agreed to consider a report on the Council Procedure Rules as the first item of business.

Council Procedure Rule 28.3 specifies which rules apply to meetings of Full Council and those that do not, as some rules are not relevant to committee meetings. Council Procedure Rule 17.3 requires minutes of meetings to contain all motions and amendments in the exact form and order in which the Chairman put them. CPR 28.3 specifies that this applies to all committee meetings.

Current practice was not to record all motions and amendments in the minutes for committee meetings, and this discrepancy had been brought to the attention of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services following a complaint about the minutes of the Planning Committee.

During the discussion it was felt that the purpose of minutes was to provide a clear and accurate record of what was finally agreed. Members therefore agreed to recommend that Council Procedure Rule 28.2 be changed to allow the current practice of committee meeting minutes recording only the final decision and not previous motions or amendments.

Councillor J Rush, at the invitation of the Chairman, addressed the Committee suggesting that Council Procedure Rule 20.2 be amended to enable members with a medical need to be granted an exemption from the requirement to stand when speaking at Full Council. During the discussion it was felt that it was important to ensure that the exemption only applied where there was a true medical need, and that agreement be sought from the Chairman in advance of a meeting.

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL:

- 1. That Council Procedure Rule 28.2 be amended to as follows:
 - 28.2 Application to Committees and Sub-Committees
 - (1) All of the Council rules of procedure apply to meetings of Full Council. Only Rules 4 to 8, 13, 14 (but not 14.4, 14.5 or 14.9), 16 (but not 16.2), 17 (but not 17.3), 18 to 23 and 27.2 of these Procedural Rules apply to meetings of committees and sub-committees including the Overview Committees. Rule 9 also applies save that the quorum for any Committee or Sub Committee shall be determined by the relevant Terms of Reference set out in this Constitution.
- 2. That Council Procedure Rule 20.2 be amended to as follows:
 - 20.2 Standing when speaking

When a Member speaks at full Council he must stand and address the meeting through the Chairman, except where the Chairman has agreed prior to the meeting that a Member is not required to stand when they speak due to a disability which restricts their mobility. If more than one member stands, the Chairman will ask one to speak and the other must sit. Other members must remain seated whilst a member is speaking unless they wish to make a point of order or a point of personal explanation.

Note: Councillor J Rush left the meeting at 6.40pm.

12 POLLING DISTRICT & PLACE REVIEW

On 19 July 2017 the Council commenced a voluntary review of polling district and polling places. This was prompted by comments received after the UK Parliamentary General Election on 8 June 2017 relating to some of the buildings currently used as polling stations.

Comments and submissions on all polling districts and polling places in Chiltern District were invited from 19 July 2017 to 13 March 2018. Following consideration of those comments and submissions a report was published on 18 May 2018 proposing changes some polling places. Comments and submissions were then invited on the proposals.

Members supported the proposal to use Chalfont St Peter Leisure Centre as the polling place for Gold Hill, but a suggestion was made to check parking availability during peak times for example during school drop off and collection to ensure sufficient parking was available to electors visiting the polling station at those times. Members also welcomed the use of alternative buildings to schools to avoid disruption to parents and students on polling day. It was noted that in some areas school buildings remained the most suitable location for polling stations due to the limited availability of suitable alternative buildings.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Chalfont St Peter Leisure Centre be designated the polling place for polling district 'CN Gold Hill'.
- 2) That Newtown Baptist Church be designated the polling place for polling district 'CT- Newtown' and 'CZ Vale'.
- 3) That Little Chalfont Methodist Church be designated the polling place for polling district 'CR1- Little Chalfont North East'.
- 4) That Cholesbury Village Hall be designated the polling place for polling districts 'CMA- Hawridge' and 'CMB- St Leonards'.
- 5) That Little Kingshill Village Hall be designated the polling place for polling districts 'CS Little Kingshill & Little Missenden' 'CVA Prestwood & Heath End (2)'

The meeting ended at 6.51 pm

CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the GOVERNANCE AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE held on 15 MAY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor D Varley - Chairman

Councillors: D Bray

J Burton
I Darby
N Rose
M Stannard
H Wallace
E Walsh

J Waters

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors P Jones and M Shaw

13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was moved by Councillor D Bray, seconded by Councillor N Rose, and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor D Varley be elected Chairman of the Governance and Electoral Arrangements Committee for the year 2019/20.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm

SUBJECT	Polling District and Polling Place Review
REPORT OF	Governance & Electoral Arrangements Committee Chairman -
	Councillor Diana Varley
RESPONSIBLE	Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Joanna Swift
OFFICER	
REPORT AUTHOR	Mat Bloxham, 01494 732143,
	Mathew.bloxham@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk
WARD/S	All wards
AFFECTED	

1. Purpose of Report

As required under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 the Council commenced a UK Parliamentary polling district and polling places review in February 2019. The Committee noted the timetable for the review at the meeting held on 16 January 2019. This report sets out the recommendations of the Acting Returning Officer following the public consultations that have taken place.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the designations of polling districts and polling places as set out in the Appendix be agreed.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

Following the recent review of polling district and polling places the above recommendation aims to ensure that suitable locations are in place for polling purposes.

3. Content of Report

The Council is required by the Electoral and Administration Act 2013 to review the UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places in its area between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020. Local authorities can also carry out a review of all or some polling districts and polling places at other times.

A review commenced on 8 February 2019 and the attached report, issued by the Acting Returning Officer (ARO), sets out their recommendations as well as the representations received during the public consultations.

Members are asked to consider and agree the Acting Returning Officer's recommendations as shown in the Appendix.

Members will be aware that the Chief Executive left the Council on 31 August 2019 and the role of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer was carried out by the Chief Executive. As agreed by both Councils the role of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer will be carried out by Joanna Swift, Head of Legal and Democratic Services from 1 September 2019 to 1 April 2020 (vesting day of Buckinghamshire Council).

4. Consultation

The Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Places was published on 8 February 2019 which invited public comments and submissions by 15 March 2019.

Publication of the ARO's report for proposed and existing polling places took place on 21 June 2019 and a further opportunity to comment was provided until 12 August 2019.

5. Options

The Committee can decide whether to agree the proposed re-designation as set out in the attach report.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

The Review has been carried out in accordance with the Electoral and Administration Act 2013 and Representation of the People Act 1983.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

The recommendation in the report supports the delivery of the Council's aims and objectives.

9. Next Steps

Subject to the agreement of the Governance & Electoral Arrangements Committee a polling district and polling places Order will be made to reflect the designations shown in the Appendix.

Background	None other than those referred to in the report.
Papers:	



Chiltern District Council- Polling District and Place Review 2019 Appendix 1

Polling District	Polling Place	Recommendations
CA	Amersham Common Village Hall, 24 White Lion Road, Amersham, HP7 9JD	No changes proposed
CA	Amersham Common Village Hall, 24 White Lion Road, Amersham, HP7 9JD	No changes proposed
СВ	St John's Methodist Church Hall, 60 Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AJ	No changes proposed
СВ	St John's Methodist Church Hall, 60 Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AJ	No changes proposed
CC	Royal British Legion Hall, 58 Whielden Street, Amersham, HP7 0HU	No changes proposed
CC1	Royal British Legion Hall, 58 Whielden Street, Amersham, HP7 0HU	No changes proposed
CD	Wallington House, Wallington Road, Chesham, HP5 2NZ	No changes proposed
CDA	Chesham Adult Learning Centre, Chiltern Hills Academy, Chartridge Lane, HP5 2RG	No changes proposed
CDA	Chesham Adult Learning Centre, Chiltern Hills Academy, Chartridge Lane, HP5 2RG	No changes proposed
CE	Ashley Green Memorial Hall, Two Dells Lane, Ashley Green, HP5 3RB	No changes proposed
CEA	Whelpley Hill Coronation Hall, Grove Lane, Chesham, HP5 3RL	No changes proposed
CEB	Chenies Baptist Church Hall, The Manse, Chenies, WD3 6ED	No changes proposed
CEC	Ley Hill Memorial Hall, The Green, Ley Hill, HP5 3QR	No changes proposed
CED	Latimer Place, Latimer, Nr Chesham, HP5 1UG	No changes proposed
CF	All Saints Church Hall, Oval Way, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 8QB	No changes proposed
CF	All Saints Church Hall, Oval Way, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 8QB	No changes proposed
CG	Chartridge Village Hall, Chartridge Lane, Chartridge, HP5 2TF	No changes proposed
CGA	Ballinger War Memorial Hall, Village Road, Ballinger	No changes proposed
CH	Chalfont St Peter Parish Church Hall, Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9RJ	No changes proposed
CH	Chalfont St Peter Parish Church Hall, Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9RJ	No changes proposed
CJ	Recreation Hall, Epilepsy Society, Chesham Lane, SL9 0RJ	No changes proposed
CJ	Recreation Hall, Epilepsy Society, Chesham Lane, SL9 0RJ	No changes proposed
CK	The Memorial Hall, School Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4JJ	No changes proposed
CK	The Memorial Hall, School Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4JJ	No changes proposed

Appendix

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	CUB		No changes proposed
	CUC		No changes proposed

	Winchmore Hill, HP7 0PN	
CUD	The Village Hall, Penn Street, Amersham, HP7 0PX	No changes proposed
CV	Prestwood Village Hall, 1 Wycombe Road, Prestwood, HP16 0NZ	No changes proposed
CV	Prestwood Village Hall, 1 Wycombe Road, Prestwood, HP16 0NZ	No changes proposed
CVA	Little Kingshill Village Hall, Windsor Lane, Little Kingshill, HP16 0DZ	No changes proposed
CW	Hope Church, Upper Belmont Road, Chesham, HP5 2DB	No changes proposed
CW	Hope Church, Upper Belmont Road, Chesham, HP5 2DB	No changes proposed
CX	Seer Green Baptist Church, Wood Pond Close, Seer Green, HP9 2XG	No changes proposed
CX	Seer Green Baptist Church, Wood Pond Close, Seer Green, HP9 2XG	No changes proposed
CY	Chesham Town Hall, Baines Walk, Chesham, HP5 1DS	No changes proposed
CYA	Christ Church Hall, Waterside, Chesham, HP5 1PY	No changes proposed
CYA	Christ Church Hall, Waterside, Chesham, HP5 1PY	No changes proposed
CZ	Newtown Evangelical Church, Berkhampstead Road, HP5 3ET	No changes proposed

^{*}Duplicate entries show multiple polling stations in one polling place

Chiltern District Council Polling District and Places Review 2019

Polling District:	CN- Gold Hill
Polling Place Chalfont Leisure Centre, Nicol Road, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9LR	The ARO comments: Polling District: No change Polling Place: No change

Comments on suitability

The Chalfont Leisure Centre was assessed at the last review undertaken by the local authority. It was deemed a suitable alternative to Gold Hill Baptist Church based on accessibility, facilities and parking.

Representations received

Representation was received from the booking clerk at Gold Hill Baptist Church requesting the church was reconsidered as the polling place for polling district 'CN'.

Consideration of alternative polling place (if appropriate)

Previously the designated polling place for 'CN- Gold Hill' was Gold Hill Baptist Church, however during the polling district review carried out in 2018, It was agreed that this be changed to Chalfont leisure Centre due to restricted parking and the anticipated redevelopment of the Gold Hill Baptist Church.

Chalfont St Peter Leisure Centre, Nicol Road met all the requirements in terms of ample parking and disability access. Furthermore, the leisure centre is half a mile from the Gold Hill Baptist Church and remains within the designated polling district. Moreover, the leisure centre was used as the polling station for the European Union Parliamentary election with no issues reported by electors or the presiding officer.

Recommendation

No change.

Chiltern District Council Polling District and Places Review 2019

Polling District:	CP – Hilltop
Polling Place Brushwood Junior School, Brushwood Road, Chesham, HP5 3DW	The ARO comments: Polling District: No change Polling Place: No change

Comments on suitability

There has been a greater focus on re-designating polling places where schools are used on polling day due to the volume of people affected by school closures.

There must be a consideration for alternative venues which are reasonable and practicable for the electorate in the polling district.

Other venues have been explored but due to accessibility and the type of alternative sites assessed the school still provides the most practical and accessible location.

Representations received

Representations received from Brushwood Junior School secretary and an interested party who requested alternative venues are considered due to the inconvenience caused to parents and pupils when the school shuts for polling day.

Consideration of alternative polling place (if appropriate)

The alternative polling places for consideration were:

Chesham Opportunities Centre, Nalders Road and Heritage House School, Cameron Road- these facilities are unsuitable for use as a polling place.

Chesham Grammar School, White Hill and Chesham Leisure Centre, White Hill are both outside of the polling district 'CP'.

Brushwood Junior School is considered the most accessible and central location for the electorate in the district. The school was used for the European Union Parliamentary election with no issues reported by electors or the presiding officer.

Recommendation

No change.

Appendix 2- Comments and Submissions from Public Consultation

Chiltern District Council welcomed comments and submissions from the public and interested parties relating to the polling district and place review 2019. The consultation period ran from 8th February to 22nd March 2019, summarised below are the comments received.

* During the second consultation period following the publication of the Acting Returning Officer's recommendations the following responses were received.

Booking Clerk/Key Holder	St John's Methodist Church Hall- commented that there are no issues with the hall being used
	for elections.
Booking Clerk/Key Holder	The Memorial Hall Chalfont St Giles- commented the hall is suitable for use as a polling station
Clerk to the Parish Council	The Memorial Hall Chalfont St Giles- On behalf of the Parish Councillors they are happy with the current polling station arrangements.
Clerk to the Parish Council	Cholesbury Village Hall- On behalf of the Parish Councillors they are pleased polling stations St Leonards Parish Hall and Cholesbury Village Hall were not combined. The Parish is pleased that St Leonards Parish Hall continues to be the polling station for polling district 'CMB'.
Booking Clerk/Key Holder	Chalfont Leisure Centre- Booking Clerk for Gold Hill Baptist Church would like the church to be reconsidered as the polling station for polling district 'CN'.
*Resident comment	Chesham Adult Learning Centre is the elector's allocated polling station. They live in Treachers
Received during second	Close and have to walk past Chesham Methodist Church (another polling station) to get to their
consultation	polling station. Their actual polling station is still very close to where they live (half a mile/12
	minute walk). They happen to live close to the boundary of two different polling districts.
Brushwood School	Brushwood Junior School, Chesham- Request to consider alternative locations as polling station
Secretary	due to inconvenience to parents and pupils when the school is closed. Alternative locations
	suggested were Chesham Opportunities Centre in Nalders Road; Heritage House School in
	Cameron Road; Chesham Grammar School on White Hill; and Chesham Leisure Centre, also on White Hill.
Individual	Brushwood Junior School, Chesham- Request to change to alternative venue due to disruption caused by school closure.
Booking Clerk/Key Holder	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Penn- commented there are no issues with the hall being used for

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	elections.				
Booking Clerk/Key Holder	The Village Hall, Penn Street- commented the village hall is valuable to enable those without				
	transport to vote despite the small electorate.				
Individual	The Village Hall, Penn Street- commented hall has good facilities however the lack of phone				
	signal is an issue when trying to contact the office with elector queries.				
Councillor	Newtown Evangelical Church, Berkhampstead Road- commented happy with the change from				
	Newtown School to the church.				



Polling District and Place Review 2019

Summary

Pursuant of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the District Council is required to undertake a review of parliamentary polling districts and places. Electors within the District, or within the parliamentary constituency, may make a representation concerning any views regarding the existing structure of polling districts, polling places and access to polling stations.

The Review commenced on 8th February 2019 and this report, issued by the Returning Officer sets their recommendations as well out representations received during the public consultation. The public interested parties were invited to submit further comments and submissions relating to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO)recommendations set out in this report by 12th August 2019. The Returning Officer's provisional decisions and recommendations will presented to the Governance and Electoral be Arrangements Committee in October 2019. The Review will conclude with the Committee making final recommendations at Council on 12th November 2019.

The full timetable is as follows:

Polling District and Place Review 2019 Timetable					
Proceedings	Time and Date				
Publication of Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Places	8 th February 2019				
Deadline for receiving public comments and submissions	22 nd March 2019				
Publication of ARO's report for proposed and existing polling places	21 st June 2019				
Deadline for receiving public comments and submissions relating to the ARO's report	12 th August 2019				
ARO's recommendations presented to the Governance and Electoral Arrangements Committee for a decision	22 nd October 2019				

The remit of the Review

The Council is required by the Electoral and Administration Act 2013 to review the UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places in its area between 1st October 2018 and 31st January 2020. This review is being conducted ahead of the next UK Parliamentary elections scheduled to take place on 5th May 2022. The local

authority conducted a preliminary polling district and place review in 2017 which concluded in 2018. This captured a number of changes to polling places which based on comments and submissions were deemed unsuitable as use of polling stations. The current review has sought to review all polling districts and places to ensure any proposed changes can take effect for future elections.

There is an obligation for the Council to ensure that polling stations are suitable and for all electors.

The requirements are that:

- 1. Electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and
- 2. As far as is reasonable and practicable, that polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when designating a polling place, have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

Recommendations

The Acting Returning Officer's recommendations to the Electoral and Governance Arrangements Committee in October 2019 are to maintain the current polling districts and places as summarised in *Appendix 1*.

The Acting Returning Officer's proposals and considerations are summarised in *Appendix 1*. The comments and submissions from the consultation period are summarised in *Appendix 2*. The Electorate totals for the polling places are listed in *Appendix 3*.

Definition of Terms

- A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a parliamentary constituency or ward into smaller parts.
- A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be located.
- A polling station is the area within the polling place where voting takes place.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the Elections Office:

Democratic and Electoral Services

Appendix

Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils

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Or

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