



## Regulatory & Appeals Committee

Date: 8 July 2015  
Time: 7.00 pm  
Venue: Committee Room 1  
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe Bucks

### Membership

Chairman: Councillor J A Savage  
Vice Chairman: Councillor Mrs L M Clarke OBE

Councillors: K Ahmed, M C Appleyard, Ms A Baughan, S Broadbent,  
A D Collingwood, C Etholen, R Gaffney, M Hussain JP, D Knights and  
B E Pearce

### Standing Deputies

Councillors Mrs S Brown, R Farmer, A R Green, G C Hall, I L McEnnis, R Raja and  
Ms J D Wassell

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## Supplementary Agenda

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For further information, please contact Iram Malik 01494 421204,  
[iram\\_malik@wycombe.gov.uk](mailto:iram_malik@wycombe.gov.uk)

# Agenda Item 5.

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

**Officer contact:** Robert Curtis Ext: 3242  
E-mail: rob.curtis@wycombe.gov.uk

**Wards affected:** Greater Hughenden  
Lacey Green Speen & the Hampdens

## RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

- (i) To amend the parish boundary as depicted in the annotated map (Appendix A) to move the two properties Cherry Dell and Trundles into the Parish of Lacey Green; and
- (ii) To make a formal request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a consequential amendment to the Ward Boundaries between Greater Hughenden and Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens District Wards based on the defined Parish amendment.

### Corporate Implications

1. The decision to amend the Parish boundary to incorporate the two properties into Lacey Green Parish has already been made by Full Council. This report seeks to definitively identify where the boundary should lie based on the suggestion attached at Appendix A to the report.

### Executive Summary

2. On the 16 September 2013, following a community governance review in the Parishes of Hughenden and Lacey Green, it was recommended through the Regulatory and Appeals Committee, that two properties named Cherry Dell and Trundles be transferred from Hughenden Parish to Lacey Green Parish and the parish boundaries amended accordingly.
3. The proposal was agreed by Full Council in October 2013, but following a review of the decision it was discovered that at the time a definitive annotated map was not produced as part of the report so the boundary amendment was not readily identifiable. This was important when taking into consideration that the change was to have taken place prior to the 2015 local elections and that it was agreed that a formal request would be made to the Boundary Commission for England for a consequential change to the Ward boundary between the Greater Hughenden and Lacey Green Speen & the Hampdens district wards reflecting the parish amendment.

### Background and Issues

4. A principal council may not carry out a review of its ward boundaries, as this is the responsibility of the Boundary Commission for England. However the electoral arrangements of a parish council may be altered by a principal council as the result of a Community Governance Review (CGR) either as a result of a petition, or at the request of the parish council itself or a local member.

5. The decision to amend parish electoral arrangements cannot be taken by a principal council without undertaking a CGR. A principal council does have the authority to refuse to undertake a CGR if it feels there would be absolutely no benefit to the community by such a review, but in the majority of cases, a review will be undertaken, even if the outcome of the review is to make no changes.
6. The owner of Cherry Dell, the owner of one of the properties on the boundary between Lacey Green and Hughenden Parish Councils has provided a map of what he considers to be a sensible interpretation of the proposed changes (Appendix A) and a site visit was undertaken by the Electoral Services and Land Charges Manager to see the precise boundaries which have been proposed and annotated by the owner of Cherry Dell.
7. The existing Parish boundary is attached at Appendix B.
8. The existing District Ward boundary is attached at Appendix C.

### **Consultation**

9. Following the site visit and receipt of the annotated proposal the two Parish Council Clerks were contacted for their observations. (Appendix D).
10. An acknowledgement was received from the Clerk for Princes Risborough Parish in her dual role as Clerk for Hughenden. (Appendix E).
11. No other responses were received.

### **Options**

1. To accept the annotated proposal or
2. To reject the proposal and for a different definitive boundary to be considered.

### **Conclusions**

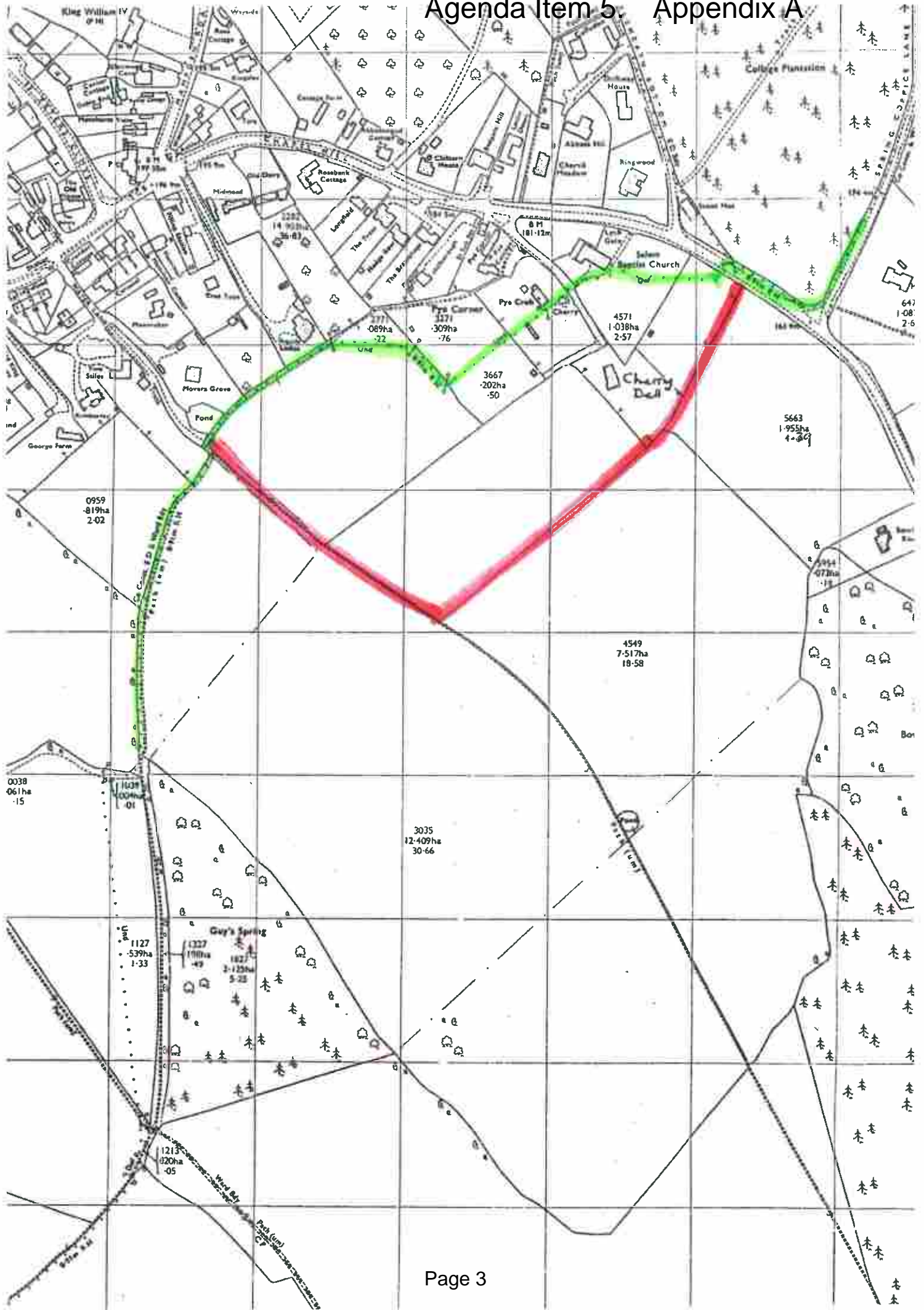
11. The decision to amend the Parish boundary to incorporate the two properties into Lacey Green Parish has already been made. The decision is to definitively identify where the boundary should lie based on the suggestion attached at Appendix A or whether any alternative should be considered.

### **Next Steps**

12. If agreed the precise re-organisation of the Parish Boundary would need to be approved by Council and implemented based on the annotated proposal and a formal request made to the Boundary Commission for England for a consequential change to the Ward boundary between the Greater Hughenden and Lacey Green Speen & the Hampdens district wards reflecting the parish amendment.

### **Background Papers**

13. Regulatory & Appeals Committee report dated the 16 September 2013



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+ Council Tax	0/1	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Democracy	2/8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1. Parishes <span>1</span>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Wards <span>1</span>		<input type="checkbox"/>



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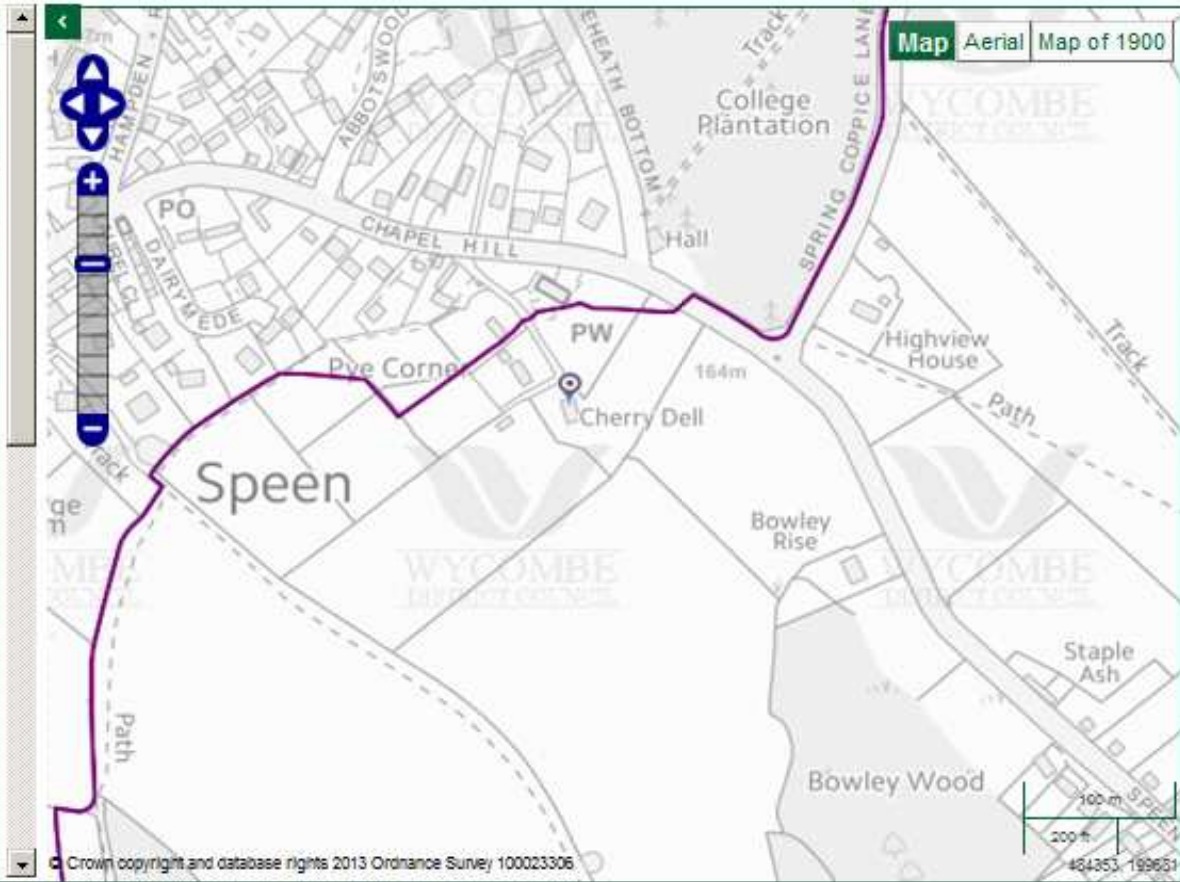
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    - 1. Parishes 1
    - 2. Wards 1



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From:  Rob Curtis  
To:  sue@princesrisborough.com;  Clerk to Hughenden Parish Council (Clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk)  
Cc:  'jh@jwhh.co.uk';  Charles Meakings;  Ian Hunt;  Fiona Blackett  
Subject: Parish Boundary

Message  John Holmes.pdf (130 KB)

Good afternoon

I'm sure you will recollect that back in 2013 a Community Governance Review (CGR) was undertaken relating to two properties that sat in the north of Hughenden Parish namely Cherry Dell and Trundles, this the direct result of an enquiry made by the resident of Cherry Dell Mr Holmes who believed that the Parish Boundary should be changed given the community identity of the properties being better suited to Lacey Green Parish

Following the review the Council here at Wycombe considered the results of the CGR and agreed with Mr Holmes and a decision made that the Parish Boundary be moved to incorporate these two properties into Lacey Green from Hughenden.

Unfortunately, following my appointment in October 2013 I discovered that whilst the decision had been made by the Regulatory & Appeals Committee on 16 September 2013 and then ratified by full council on the 7 October 2013 there does not appear to be a definitive boundary marked to where the revised boundary should actually lie after the decision was made. Consequently, I have been in correspondence with Mr Holmes and visited his property yesterday to have a look at a proposal he has to where the boundary should lie and it is my intention to take this back to the committee so that they can draw a line under this and we all know exactly where the revised boundary now lies if everyone is in agreement.

Mr Holmes has provided me with a map where he has drawn (The green line is the existing boundary and the red line is his proposal) what appears to me to be a logical proposal from the main road which then follows a hedge past his property up to the public footpath and then across to complete an area which would be incorporated into Lacey Green. On the map it appears to be a huge geographical area but in reality it is not having walked it yesterday and the proposal follows clearly defined established boundaries set by the hedge and the public footpath.

The plan is to put this proposal before the next Regulatory & Appeals Committee which is due to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Can I ask for your comments as to Mr Holmes proposal so that I can take this forward?

As an aside it is also proposed to make an application to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make a consequential amendment to the District Ward Boundaries so that they run conterminously with the new proposals which would bring the two properties into the District of Lacey Green and the Hampdens away from Greater Hughenden District, which is where they lie now, and I'm proposing to contact the District Cllrs for their thoughts on this as well following the Councils agreement in 2013 for the application to be made.

I hope this makes sense and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions


**Robert Curtis**  
**Electoral Services and Land Charges Manager**

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Queen Victoria Road  
High Wycombe  
Bucks HP11 1BB  
Direct dial 01494 421242


<http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/elections2015>

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**Re: Parish Boundary**

 Sue Griffiths <sue@princesrisborough.com>

Sent: Wed 20/05/2015 19:03

To:  Rob Curtis

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Dear Rob,

Thank you for your e-mail which I have forwarded to the councillors.

Kind regards,

Susanne Griffiths  
Clerk to the Parish Council