

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of NORTH DEVON COUNCIL held at Brynsworthy Environment Centre, Barnstaple on Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Croft (Chair)

Councillors Barker, Brailey, Campbell, Chesters, Chugg, Davis, Edmunds, Greenslade, Gubb, Haywood, Jones, Lane, Ley, Leaver, Mathews, Moore, Moores, Patrinos, Prowse, Roome, Spear, Tucker, Webber, White, Wood, Worden and Yabsley.

Officers:

Chief Executive, Head of Corporate and Community and Senior Corporate and Community Services Officer (BT).

73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Biederman, R. Cann, Edgell, Fowler, Flynn, Luggar, Manuel and Wilkinson.

74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

75 BOUNDARY REVIEW

Council considered a report by the Head of Corporate and Community (circulated previously) regarding consideration of the submission of a formal Council representation to the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC).

The Head of Corporate and Community advised that following the decision of Council held on 17th January 2018 a Member working party had met on 30th January 2018 to consider making a formal Council representation on the Boundary Review to the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC). He reminded Council of the guidance that had been issued by the LGBC regarding electoral equality, community issues and governance when determining ward boundaries. He advised that the working group had considered the boundaries and had supported the following:

- the removal of Heanton Punchardon and Ashford from Braunton South Ward and the creation of a single one Member Ward for these areas;

- that the following options for Braunton be put forward:
 - (A) Councillor Greenslade's proposals for Braunton North and Braunton South;
 - (B) LGBC proposals with the exclusion of Heanton Punchardon and Ashford;
 - (C) Consideration of splitting polling districts to maintain wards for Braunton East and West;
- that the Bishops Nympton and Witheridge ward be split into two single Member Wards as follows:
 - (A) Witheridge – include Witheridge, Rackenford, Creacombe, Meshaw, East and West Worlington;
 - (B) Bishops Nympton – include Bishops Nympton, East and West Anstey, Knowstone, Mariansleigh, Rose Ash and Romansleigh (to be removed from the Chulmleigh ward).
- that text be included in the submission to the LGBC that the Council's original submission for the South Molton ward be supported (i.e. variance of -11%) and that the additional growth in South Molton be highlighted;
- that the following options be put forward in relation to Marwood and Berrynarbor and Combe Martin wards:
 - (A) That the Ward be split into two one Member wards and that Combe Martin become a single one Member Ward by reducing the parish by approximately 20-30 properties to bring the variance to within the tolerance level;
 - (B) That Combe Martin Parish Council consider making representations regarding the LGBC proposals
- That proposals for wards for Wider Pilton including Pilton West (2 Members), Yeo Vale (2 Members), Barnstaple Central (3 Members), Newport (2 Members) and Forches/Whiddon Valley and Westacott (3 Members) be supported.

The Head of Corporate and Community outlined the proposed warding patterns for Barnstaple, Braunton, Heanton, Bishops Nympton and Witheridge wards as detailed on the tabled plans. In relation to the proposal to create a single member Combe Martin ward, he reported the receipt of letters from Combe Martin Parish Council, the Tourism Association and former Councillor Julia Clark which would be submitted to the LGBC for consideration.

A Table detailing the proposed polling districts, forecast population and number of Councillors and proportion for each of those proposed wards and a paper detailing draft recommendations together with reasons for the recommendations were tabled.

Council gave a vote of thanks to Sarah Higgins and Ken Miles for their hard work and input into the boundary review.

It was moved by Councillor Prowse and seconded by Councillor Davis “that Council submit a formal response to the LGBC consultation indicating that it approves of the consultation draft with the following changes:

- (a) Barnstaple, Braunton, Heanton Punchardon, Georgeham, Bishops Nympton and Witheridge – that the warding patterns and ward names be as shown on the tabled plans and Table;
- (b) That the Boundary Commission be urged to re-consider the removal of the parishes of George Nympton and Queens Nympton (polling districts CE and DR) from the proposed South Molton Ward and instead include them within the proposed Bishops Nympton ward;
- (c) That the Boundary Commission be urged to re-consider the removal of Combe Martin (polling districts BP and BQ) from the proposed Combe Martin and Marwood ward and to re-consider the creation of a single member Combe Martin ward; and
- (d) That the Boundary Commission be urged to consider the community representations in respect of (b) and (c) above.”

The Head of Corporate and Community advised that if the decision to submit a formal Council response to the LGBC consultation was not unanimous, then those Members not in support could submit individual representations to the LGBC by the deadline of 19th February 2018. Following consultation, the LGBC would issue its report, which would then be put before Parliament to come into effect for the May 2019 elections. The Parish Boundary review would commence later this year.

RESOLVED that Council submit a formal response to the LGBC consultation indicating that it approves of the consultation draft with the following changes:

- (a) Barnstaple, Braunton, Heanton Punchardon, Georgeham, Bishops Nympton and Witheridge – that the warding patterns and ward names be as shown on the tabled plans and Table;
- (b) That the Boundary Commission be urged to re-consider the removal of the parishes of George Nympton and Queens Nympton (polling districts CE and DR) from the

proposed South Molton Ward and instead include them within the proposed Bishops Nympton ward;

- (c) That the Boundary Commission be urged to re-consider the removal of Combe Martin (polling districts BP and BQ) from the proposed Combe Martin and Marwood ward and to re-consider the creation of a single member Combe Martin ward; and
- (d) That the Boundary Commission be urged to consider the community representations in respect of (b) and (c) above.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 6.28 p.m.

NOTE: These minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of Council.