

*North  
Wiltshire  
District  
Council*

Corporate Services  
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**BOUNDARY REVIEW  
SUB COMMITTEE**

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**THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING**

**Minutes of the Boundary Review Sub Committee Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006 in Committee Rooms A&B, Level -1, Monkton Park Offices, Chippenham, commencing at 10.00am.**

**Present:** Councillor D.J.E. Evans ..... Chair

Councillors I.J. Henderson, J.R. Ireland, A.S.R. Jackson and R.L. Tonge

**Other Members Present:** Councillors H.R. Barton, C. Reid, J.A. Scott and T.R. Sturgis

**Officers:** J. Watling (Policy & Democratic Services Team Leader) and J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant)

**BR64. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor D.M. Moore.

**BR65. Public Question Time / Receipt of Petitions**

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

**BR66. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 (circulated with the Agenda) were considered.

**Resolved** that subject the following amendments:

- 1) At Minute BR62 Recommendation Ref 4 'Lickhill' be replaced by 'Chilvester'.
- 2) At Minute BR62 Recommendation Ref 5 the following be deleted from the Recommendation; 'and that an extra Councillor be provided for the Lickhill Ward'.

the Minutes of the Meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

**BR67. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**BR68. Chairman's Announcements (if any)**

None.

**BR69. Further Electoral Review (FER) of North Wiltshire**

The following additional papers were distributed for consideration at the meeting: A colour map of the Electoral Commissions' Draft Proposals, a red outlined map showing the original submission to the Electoral Commission from North Wiltshire District Council and a black & white map showing the current District electoral arrangements.

Consideration was also given to a paper from Councillors J.A. Scott, C. Reid and G. Offord which contained views on the Electoral Commission's proposals for the current Biddestone and Pickwick Ward.

J. Watling (Policy & Democratic Services Team Leader) outlined the results of the Questionnaires sent to Parish/Town Councils and to District Councillors. He stated that:

- 23 Parishes agreed with the District Council that 54 District Councillors would be the preferred number of Councillors. 4 Parish Councils said there should be fewer than 54 and 1 Parish Council argued for more.
- 27 Parishes responded in support of single-member District Wards, citing reasons including accountability, the need to represent a defined area and Councillor workload. 4 Parish Councils were in support of multi-member wards.
- 25 Parishes responded to say that District Wards should tie in with County Community Areas.
- 12 Parishes agreed with the Electoral Commission's proposals, whilst 15 disagreed.
- 19 District Councillors responded to the questionnaire.
- 16 District Councillors supported the Sub Committees' proposal that there be 54 District Councillors, 2 were in favour of more and 1 Councillor favoured less.
- 13 out of 19 favoured single-member wards.
- 18 out of 19 favoured synchronicity between district wards and County Community Areas.
- 5 out of 19 agreed with the Electoral Commissions' draft proposals.

Issues discussed included:

- The draft proposals of the Electoral Commission;
- The paper from Councillors J.A. Scott, C. Reid and G. Offord which contained views on the Electoral Commissions' proposals for the current Biddestone and Pickwick Ward;
- That rural areas seem to favour single-member wards;
- That Biddestone feels most closely associated with villages in the area such as Yatton Keynell rather than nearby towns;
- The views of Calne Town Council;
- The views of Chippenham Town Council on the proposed double-member ward for Redland;
- That the community leader role of councillors could be diminished in multi-member wards; and
- The impact of service personnel on the equality of votes figures.

**Recommended to the Personnel, Licensing & Administration Committee**

**The Corsham Area.**

- 1) That Lacock, Gastard and Neston make up a single-member ward, be agreed in principle.
- 2) That J. Watling (Policy & Democratic Services Team Leader) examines the proposals put forward by Councillors J.A. Scott, C. Reid and G. Offord to arrive at an outline proposal reflecting their views.

**The Malmesbury Area.**

- 1) That the double-member ward of Malmesbury be split into two single-member wards, be agreed in principle.
- 2) That the existing Malmesbury District Councillors be informed of the Sub Committees' resolution and be asked for suggestions for ward names.

**The Calne Area.**

- 1) That Calne Town Council's proposals to make the Lickhill Ward a single-member ward with parts of the current electorate moving to the Chilvester Ward, be agreed in principle.

**The Chippenham Area.**

- 1) That the splitting of the Redland and Audley Wards into two single-member wards, be agreed in principle.
- 2) That Chippenham Town Council be asked to provide details of its proposals and reasons and evidence for its views.

### **The Lyneham Area.**

That the principle of creating three wards in the Lyneham and Calne Without Area be supported along the following lines:

- a) Bremhill, the west Pewsham and Sandy Lane part of Calne Without make up a single-member ward of 1945 electors.
- b) Lyneham & Bradenstoke, Clyffe Pypard, Hilmarton and Tockenham make up a double-member ward of 4276 electors.
- c) That the Parishes of Heddington, Cherhill, Compton Bassett and the remainder of Calne Without make up a single-member ward of 1931 electors.

The meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 11.25am.