

## GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE – 7 SEPTEMBER 2018

### COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Committee will recall considering at its meeting on 8 June 2018 a request from the Netley Marsh Parish Council to discontinue the two wards of the Parish Council, Netley Marsh North and Netley Marsh South. These are shown on the map attached at Appendix 1. The Committee agreed to review the current arrangements.
- 1.2 As a reminder, there are currently 1,711 electors in Netley Marsh, with 7 Parish Councillors:

| Ward               | Electorate | No. of Councillors |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Netley Marsh North | 313        | 1                  |
| Netley Marsh South | 1,398      | 6                  |

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the Act”) enables a District Council to change a parish’s warding arrangements by order, but only after undertaking a “community governance review” (“CGR”).
- 2.2 When undertaking a review, the District Council must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission. However, subject to that, it is for the Council to decide how to undertake a review.
- 2.3 Netley Marsh is a relatively small parish, both geographically and in population terms. It is unusual for a Parish of this size to be warded. The reasons why the parish was warded originally are uncertain but it appears that it arose from a change in the boundary between Test Valley Borough Council and New Forest District Council. It is clear that the two wards have been in existence since at least 1992.
- 2.4 Netley Marsh Parish Council considers the two wards unnecessary and, indeed, that they cause some confusion to residents. There are additional administrative and cost implications arising from two wards, for example, when conducting elections – separate notices, ballot papers, poll cards, etc., have to be prepared.

#### 3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Initial consultation with the local community was undertaken through the medium of a local newsletter ‘The Outlook’ and on the District Council’s website (See Appendix 2). No responses were received.
- 3.2 A second consultation with the local community was undertaken through the medium of ‘The Outlook’ and the New Forest District Council’s website (See Appendix 3). Five residents of the parish made contact with officers following the second consultation. All expressed support for the idea of combining the two wards.

#### **4. ISSUES TO CONSIDER**

- 4.1 To comply with the Government's guidance, the primary issue for the Committee to address in considering the Parish Council's request will be whether the request will result in "effective and convenient local government". A further important consideration is that community governance in the area reflects the interests and identities of the community.
- 4.2 All responses received have been in support of the proposal to combine the two wards.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Resources involved in undertaking the review have thus far and should continue to be mainly employee time. Further communication/consultation with residents will hopefully continue to be via the local newsletter and the District Council's website, and should not incur direct costs.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are none.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATION**

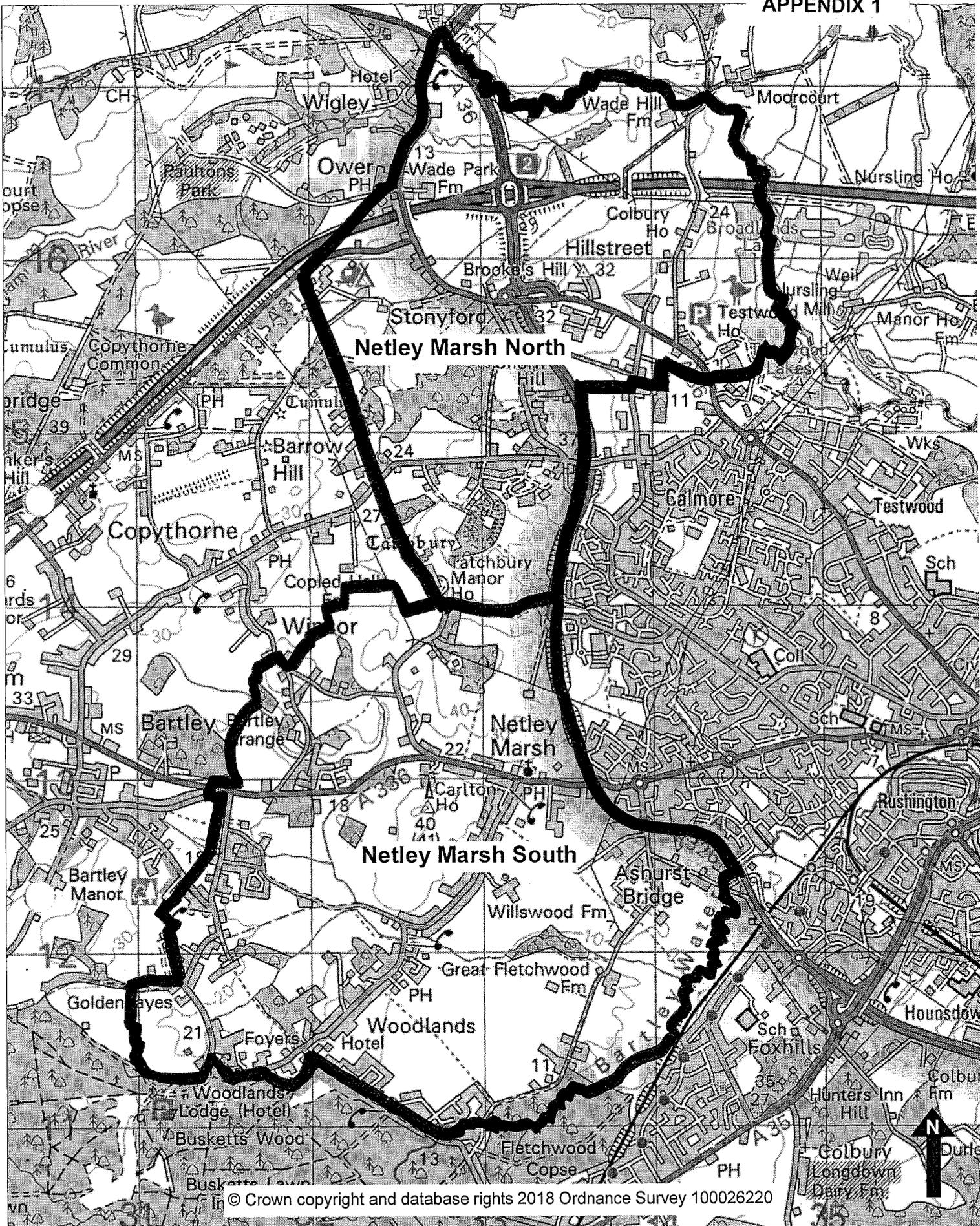
- 7.1 That it be a recommendation to the Council that, as discontinuing the two wards of the Parish Council will result in effective and convenient local government and that community governance in the area reflects the interests and identities of the community:-
- (a) Final proposals and recommendations to abolish the two wards of Netley Marsh Parish Council with effect from the next ordinary election of Councillors in May 2019 be published, and that steps be taken to ensure that those who may have an interest are informed of them; and
- (b) Following the steps in (a) above, a Reorganisation Order be made to give effect to the changes set out above.

#### **Further information:**

Tim Nelson  
Electoral Services Officer  
Tel: 023 8028 5445  
Email: tim.nelson@nfdc.gov.uk

#### **Background Papers:**

Request from Netley Marsh Parish Council  
dated 22 June 2015  
Responses to consultation



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**New Forest**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tel: 023 8028 5000 www.newforest.gov.uk

**Title** Netley Marsh Parish Wards

**Date**

13/02/18

**Scale**

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## SHOULD THE TWO WARDS OF NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL BE DISCONTINUED?

Netley Marsh Parish Council is divided into two wards for electoral purposes – Netley Marsh North and Netley Marsh South. The two wards are shown on the map below. Netley Marsh North has 324 electors, and Netley Marsh South 1,384.

It is unusual for a relatively small parish like Netley Marsh to be divided into wards, and the Parish Council has requested that the warding arrangements be abolished. One Parish Councillor represents the residents of Netley Marsh North Ward and six represent those living within Netley Marsh South.

New Forest District Council has power to change a Parish Council's electoral areas after following certain statutory requirements, which include consulting local residents who are eligible to vote. This article is the first stage of consulting local residents on the request to discontinue the two wards of the Parish Council. There will be further consultation as the process moves forward.

If the Parish Council's request is agreed, all seven Parish Councillors will represent the whole of the Parish. The new arrangements would come into effect at the next ordinary election of Councillors in May 2019.

### Tell us what you think:

Please send your views on the proposed change by e-mail or letter to arrive by not later than Monday 16 April 2018 to:

[rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk)

Rosemary Rutins  
New Forest District Council  
Appletree Court  
Beaulieu Road  
Lyndhurst  
SO43 7PA

Telephone: (023) 8028 5588 (ask for Rosemary Rutins)

### Next steps:

If, after considering the responses to this consultation, the District Council decides to move to the next stage of the statutory process, the District Council's proposals will be published and further views invited.

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## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – NETLEY MARSH PARISH

At the request of the Netley Marsh Parish Council, New Forest District Council is undertaking a “community governance review” of the electoral arrangements of Netley Marsh Parish Council with a view to removing the two wards of the Parish Council, Netley Marsh North and Netley Marsh South.

The District Council has set the following terms of reference for the review:

“In response to a request from Netley Marsh Parish Council, to review the current warding arrangements for the parish with a view to determining whether the current two wards of the Parish Council should be discontinued.”

The current two wards of the Parish Council are shown on the map below.

There are currently 1,722 electors in Netley Marks Parish, with 7 Parish Councillors:

| Ward               | Electorate | No. of Councillors |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Netley Marsh North | 322        | 1                  |
| Netley Marsh South | 1,400      | 6                  |

The Parish Council considers the two wards unnecessary and that the existence of the two wards causes some confusion to residents. There are additional administrative and cost implications arising from two wards, particularly arising from elections when separate notices, ballot papers, poll cards, etc., have to be prepared.

If residents have any views they would like the District Council to consider they should send them to:

[Tim.nelson@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.nelson@nfdc.gov.uk)

or

Tim Nelson  
Electoral Services  
New Forest District Council  
Appletree Court  
Beaulieu Road  
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Responses must be received by Friday 20 July 2018.

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