

REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 7 September 2018)

1. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL (MINUTE NO. 12)

The Committee has considered the request by Netley Marsh Parish Council to discontinue the two wards of the Parish Council, Netley Marsh North and Netley Marsh South.

Netley Marsh is a relatively small parish both geographically and in population terms, and it is unusual for a Parish of this size to be warded. The reasons why the parish was warded are uncertain, however the two wards have been in existence since at least 1992. Netley Marsh Parish Council considers the two wards unnecessary.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables a District Council to change a parish's warding arrangements by order, but only after undertaking a "community governance review". 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 up to the Council to decide how to undertake a review.

Two rounds of consultation have been carried out through the medium of a local newsletter, 'The Outlook', and on the New Forest District Council's website. Five residents of the parish made contact with officers following the second consultation and all expressed support for the idea of combining the two wards.

The Committee considers that the request by the Parish Council would result in "effective and convenient local government" and that combination of the two wards would reflect the interests and identities of the community.

RECOMMENDED:

That, as it is considered that discontinuing the two wards of the Parish Council would result in effective and convenient local government and that community governance in the area would reflect the interests and identities of the community:

- (i) final proposals 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***
- (ii) following the steps in (i) above, a Reorganisation Order be made to give effect to the changes set out above.***

**CLLR S J CLARKE
CHAIRMAN**