

REPORT TO: Civic Affairs Committee

26 June 2018

LEAD OFFICER: Head of Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing

Additional powers - South Trumpington Parish Meeting

Purpose

1. To consider a request from South Trumpington Parish Meeting to grant additional powers to the Parish Meeting.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Committee:
 - (a) agrees the request from South Trumpington Parish Meeting to grant all, or a selection of, the requested powers.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Parish of South Trumpington was established on 1 April 2017 following a Community Governance Review. Council decided not to establish a parish council at the time.
4. The parish is growing, however, they do not feel that they are currently of a size to warrant a further Community Governance Review at this time. They feel that the additional powers will enable effective governance without the need for a review at this time.

Background

5. A request has been received from South Trumpington Parish Meeting to grant additional powers which it feels it requires to effectively function as a Parish Meeting.
6. South Trumpington Parish was created as a result of a Community Governance Review two years ago, to allow the growing community at Trumpington Meadows their own governance rather than falling under the governance of Haslingfield Parish Council. South Trumpington Parish on the southern fringe of Cambridge City, and Haslingfield, a rural village, have different needs and priorities and it was felt creating a new Parish of South Trumpington would allow more effective governance.

Considerations

7. Parish Councils and Parish Meetings undertake similar roles, however, Parish Meetings upon creation, have reduced powers to those of a Parish Council, with the option to request further powers from its principal authority when and if required.
8. Civic Affairs Committee has delegated authority to make decisions granting additional powers to Parish Meetings.
9. The current electorate of South Trumpington is 166.

10. A Community Governance Review would be required to convert the South Trumpington Parish Meeting into South Trumpington Parish Council. Local Government Boundary Commission guidance recommends either a Parish Meeting or Parish Council for electorates between 151 and 999, and recommends a Parish Council for an electorate greater than 1000 (S94(2) LGPHA 2007). At this time, South Trumpington Parish Meeting have given the following reasons (Appendix B) to remain a Parish Meeting at this time:
- (a) The number of electors is still under 200.
 - (b) Due to the expanding nature of the development if there was a parish council, it might not be fair to have the majority/all the seats taken by early residents.
 - (c) There is not sufficient business due to the lack of land, buildings and assets at this point and becoming a parish council at this time would increase the administrative burden for little extra gain.
11. In its request to the Council (Appendix A), South Trumpington Parish Meeting request powers that allow them to
- (a) Create/fund a local newsletter (LGA Act 1972 s.142).
 - (b) Provide and maintain bus shelters (LGA (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s.4 and Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1).
 - (c) Spend money on crime detection and prevention measures (Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31).
 - (d) Provide, acquire and equip buildings for social, educational objectives and public meetings (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972, s.133).
 - (e) Contribute financially to traffic calming schemes (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 s.19 and Local Government Act 1972, s.133).
 - (f) Provide certain traffic signs and other notices (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.72).
 - (g) Provide Bins (Litter Act 1983, s.5,6).
 - (h) Provide recreational facilities (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19).
 - (i) Provide entertainment and support of the arts (Local Government Act 1972, s.145).
 - (j) Right to be notified of planning applications and make recommendation in the same way a Parish Council can (Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched.1, para.8).
 - (k) Acquire and accept gifts of land (Local Government Act 1972, s.124, 126, 127, 139 and Public Health Act 1875, s.164 and Open Spaces Act 1906, s.9 and 10).
 - (l) Spend money on community transport schemes (Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.26-29).
 - (m) Spend for purposes which no other power exists (Section 137). (Local Government Act 1972 s.137).

Options

12. The Committee could agree, to
- (a) grant South Trumpington Parish Meeting the requested extra powers as per their request (Appendix A); or
 - (b) grant selected extra powers as per their request (Appendix A); or
 - (c) refuse to grant additional powers; or

- (d) a further Community Governance Review to consider creating a parish council.

Implications

- 13. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Legal

- 14. **109.— Conferring functions of parish council on parish meeting.**

(1) On the application of the parish meeting of a parish not having a separate parish council, the district council may, subject to the provisions of the grouping order if the parish is grouped with any other parish, by order confer on the parish meeting any functions of a parish council.

(2) Two copies of every order made under this section shall be sent by the district council to the Secretary of State.

Effect on Strategic Aims

- 15. Appropriate community governance arrangements will help the Council to sustain existing successful, vibrant villages; helping to achieve our vision to deliver superb quality of life for our residents, and remain the best place to live, work, and study in the country.

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