

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Affairs Committee held on
Tuesday, 1 December 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Dr. Douglas de Lacey – Chair
Councillor Dr. Claire Daunton – Vice-Chair

Councillors: Dr. Martin Cahn
Geoff Harvey
Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer
Dr. Richard Williams

Nigel Cathcart
Bridget Smith
Heather Williams

Officers: Patrick Adams
Jason Clarke
Andrew Francis
Kathryn Hawkes
Louise Lord
Rory McKenna

Senior Democratic Services Officer
Development Officer
Electoral Services Manager
Programme Manager
Development Officer
Deputy Head of Legal Practice/Monitoring
Officer

Councillor Brian Milnes was in attendance, by invitation.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Henry Batchelor and Mark Howell. Councillor Geoff Harvey substituted for Councillor Henry Batchelor. Councillor Richard Williams Substituted for Councillor Mark Howell.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2020 as a correct record, subject to the removal of paragraph C from minute 6, as the Committee did not formally appoint members to the Task and Finish Group.

4. Sawston and Babraham Community Governance Review

The Development Officer, Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing, introduced this report on a request from Sawston Parish Council for a Community Governance Review to alter the boundary of the parish of Sawston to incorporate new developments on the boundary of the parishes of Babraham and Sawston.

Councillor Brian Milnes, local member for Sawston, thanked officers for their work in preparing the Community Governance Review, in trying circumstances due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He requested that the Committee agree Option One in the report, “to invite submissions presenting the boundary Sawston Parish Council have proposed and

requesting any other alternative boundaries for consideration”, as this was supported by Sawston Parish Council, Babraham Parish Council and the other local members.

Ward boundary change

It was noted that the boundary under consideration was also a ward boundary and the Council would need to request that the Boundary Commission alter the ward boundary if the change proposed by Sawston Parish Council was agreed. The Elections Manager reported that it was possible that, if agreed, the change would not be enacted before the District Council elections in 2022. He explained that the Council would manage this anomaly if necessary, but he requested that if the Committee was minded to agree to the Community Governance Review, it should do so without delay. It was noted that this issue was not directly relevant to the Committee’s deliberations.

It was understood that if no residents had moved into the area under consideration by May 2022, this was a moot point.

Options

The Committee noted the local support for commencing the Community Governance Review, under the terms in Option One in the report.

Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer explained that he had not heard the whole debate and so he would abstain from the vote.

The Chair proposed and the Vice Chair seconded that the Committee agree Option one, to “invite submissions presenting the boundary Sawston Parish Council have proposed and requesting any other alternative boundaries for consideration.” This was agreed by affirmation.

A vote was taken and by affirmation, the Committee

Agreed

- A)** The request from Sawston Parish Council for a Community Governance Review to consider a boundary change, as laid out in Option One in the report.
- B)** The draft terms of reference, as laid out in Appendix A of the report
- C)** For the Head of Transformation to agree a timetable in consultation with Sawston Parish Council, Babraham Parish Council and other stakeholders.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 10am.

The Meeting ended at 10.25 a.m.
