

BROADLAND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Broadland Electoral Arrangements Committee of Broadland District Council, held on Monday, 26 September 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: P Bulman (Chairman), M Murrell (Vice-Chair), S Beadle, N Harpley, C Karimi-Ghovanlou, E Laming and J Leggett

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: J Fisher, S Gurney and K Vincent

Officers in Attendance: E Hodds (Chief of Staff (Monitoring Officer)), L Mockford (Governance Manager), C White (Democratic Services Manager) and Tullock (Electoral Services Manager)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fisher, Gurney and K Vincent.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Arrangements Committee held on 29 January 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MONITORING OFFICER REPORT (SPIXWORTH PARISH BOUNDARY)

Members considered the report of the Governance Manager, which sought to rectify an issue with the Coltishall, and Spixworth with St Faiths district wards and Hevingham and Spixworth and Wroxham county boundaries.

The Governance Manager presented her report to members, explaining that following a community governance review for Spixworth parish, carried out back in 2012, there were changes which resulted in an area being transferred from Crostwick, into Spixworth parish. There were knock on effects to this change on the district wards and county divisions, however, officers at the time failed to inform members of these consequential changes, and therefore no request was ever made to the Boundary Commission to make changes to the district and

county boundaries. Members noted that district councils had no powers to amend district or county boundaries.

Despite the official order only referring to changes to the parish boundaries, officers made amendments to all three boundaries. This meant some electors had been voting in the incorrect district ward or county division.

Members noted that this error was only recently identified due to a new sophisticated elections management system being in place. Officers had researched previous election results and were able to confirm that even if every elector affected had voted, the outcome of those elections would not have changed.

The Governance Manager drew attention to the options available to the Council now that the error had been identified. Members noted that officers' preferred option was to submit a request to the Boundary Commission to make the necessary consequential changes to the relevant district wards and county divisions. The Governance Manager stressed that there was no guarantee that the Boundary Committee would agree to this request.

The Chairman advised the meeting that he felt this to be a clear oversight by officers and he felt that the Council was now obliged to correct the error. Members agreed that the officer recommendation was the most appropriate way forward.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED

TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL agrees to submit a request to the Boundary Commission making consequential recommendations for related alterations to the boundaries for the Coltishall and Spixworth with St Faiths district wards and the current Hevingham and Spixworth and Woxham county divisions.

(The meeting concluded at 6.10 pm)

Chairman