

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 29 January, 2024
at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury

Present: Councillor James Flanagan (Chair)
Councillor Alister Brady (Vice Chair)
Councillor Dane Buckman
Councillor Peter Old
Councillor Naomi Smith
Councillor Ian Stockley
Councillor Jeanette Stockley
Councillor Steven Wheeler

In attendance: Councillor Keji Moses
Councillor Harry McKenzie

Officers:

Matthew Archer- Head of Corporate Governance
VanessaMontgomery - Senior Democratic Services Manager

504. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Edwards

505. Substitute members

There were no substitutes present.

506. Declarations of interest by Members or Officers

There was a voluntary announcement made on behalf of all committee members that the public speaker was likely to be known to the committee as he was a former councillor.

507. Public participation

There was one public speaker regarding item 5.

508. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISH BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE PARISHED AREAS OF WESTBERE AND HERSDEN

(There was a voluntary announcement made on behalf of all committee members that the public speaker was likely to be known to the committee as he was a former councillor.)

The Head of Corporate Governance introduced the report that was asking the committee to recommend to Council to approve the terms of reference, timetable and consultation plan for a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the parish boundary between the Westbere and

Hersden parished area.

There were two options detailed in the report:

Option 1 - To agree the terms of reference, timetable and consultation plan

Option 2 - To suggest amendments to the terms of reference and timetable, which will be referred to Council for consideration.

The Committee discussed the recommendations and the following points were made, with the Head of Corporate Governance giving clarification where necessary:

- A question would be amended in the consultation to read should the Westbere parish boundary be moved to incorporate the Bread and Cheese field green space.
- It was clarified that the second part of the petition, which called for the Field to be designated as protected green space, was a planning policy matter and therefore beyond the scope of this review. It had been explained to the petitioner that comments could be submitted in response to the local plan consultation which was due to start in March 2024.
- A query was raised regarding the capacity of the Task and Finish Group who were already looking at the Whitstable Community Governance review (CGR). It was acknowledged that capacity could be an issue. An extended period had been allowed to prepare the recommendations to account for the overlap with the boundary review and the Whitstable CGR.
- It was clarified that the second phase of the Whitstable consultation would occur after the conclusion of this review so it would be staggered which should help with capacity.
- The consultation was open to all residents in the district, although as part of data gathering, addresses would be asked for and so the location of the resposdee would form part of the analysis.
- The ward boundary review was due to conclude in July. The findings would be considered before concluding this review.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to vote recommended to Council:

1. That a Community Governance Review be conducted, in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and the timetable and terms of reference set out in the appendices to this report be approved;
2. That the Head of Corporate Governance, in consultation with the Head of Paid Service be authorised to take all necessary steps in relation to the review;
3. That the CGR Task and Finish Advisory Group be invited to consider the review and make recommendations to the committee.

Record of the voting:

For (8): Brady, Buckman, Flanagan, Old, N.Smith, I.Stockley, J.Stockley and Wheeler

Against: None

Abstained: None

509. Any other urgent business to be dealt with in public

There was no urgent business

510. Exclusion of the press and public

Not required

511. Any other urgent business which falls under the exempt provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or both

There was no urgent business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7:20pm.