

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4 April 2013, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Pratt (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, MacKay, Shilton, Weed and Wreford-Bush.

40. **SUBSTITUTES**

There were no substitutes.

41. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

42. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

43. **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below:

Minute No.	Para Nos.	Reason
44	1	Information relating to any individual
44	2	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

44. **MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

45. **FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Executive which presented the final recommendations for electoral arrangements in Warwick district as proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The Commission had carried out a review of the Council's electoral arrangements and drawn up recommendations following a period of public consultation. 322 submissions were made to the Commission during this period including two from this Council concerning the Council's size and warding arrangements.

A draft Order – the legal document bringing the recommendations into force - would now be laid in Parliament and implemented subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. The new electoral arrangements would come into force at the Warwick District Council elections in 2015.

The Committee noted that, as this was the final stage of the review, the only option was to implement the Commission's decisions and carry out the Community Governance Review of parish and town council boundaries and warding arrangements as previously agreed. While Members could express views on the recommendations to the Boundary Commission, there could be no guarantee of any changes as a consequence.

Members accepted that the Commission's recommended warding arrangements were intended to provide for a pattern of wards that reflected community identities across Warwick district and delivered electoral equality for voters. Nevertheless, they were concerned that this had been achieved through Warwick Gates having a fractured representation and not being recognised by the review as a community in its own right, despite it being seen as such locally. The Committee felt there was a need to reappraise this area within a few years rather than leaving it for another decade. The Chief Executive agreed to write to the Boundary Commission, accepting the changes as they stood, but stating that the Committee did not feel the changes were a permanent solution and, bearing in mind the potential for significant growth in Warwick Gates over coming years, requesting a review of this area within a few years.

It was suggested that the integrity of Whitnash could be threatened by efforts to address Warwick Gates and that this should be borne in mind if a reappraisal was undertaken.

The Chief Executive stated that an additional meeting of the Regulatory Committee was likely to be arranged for June or July to address the timetable for town and parish council reviews. Members echoed the Chief Executive's sentiment that town and parish councils should drive change themselves, rather than change being forced upon them, and expressed a willingness to assist if they were able to do so.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the Chief Executive write to the Boundary Commission requesting a review of the Warwick Gates area within a few years because the Committee does not consider the boundary changes as they stand to be a permanent solution;
- (2) the Commission's final recommendations that Warwick District Council should be represented by 46 Councillors representing four three-member wards, sixteen two-member wards and two single-member wards across the District, be noted; and
- (3) the Commission's final recommendations for the boundaries of the 22 District electoral wards be noted.

(The meeting ended at 3.05 pm)