

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21 March 2022 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 5.00pm.

Present: Councillors Illingworth (Chairman), Boad, C Gifford, Leigh-Hunt, Redford, Norris, and Syson.

22. Apologies and Substitutes

(a) apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cullinan, Grey and Mangat.

(b) there were no substitutes.

23. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee held on 14 October 2020, 19 July 2021, 15 November 2021, and 16 November 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

25. Minutes of Licensing & Regulatory Panels

The minutes of the Licensing & Regulatory Panels held on 3 August 2021, 16 September 2021, and 26 October 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26. Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

The Committee considered a report from Democratic Services which sought to inform the Committee of the proposed Parliamentary Constituencies for Warwick District as part of the first consultation and provide a suggested submission on behalf of the Council.

This report provided a summary and as there had been no material changes to the proposals it is considered appropriate for the Council reaffirm its position.

The 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies was underway, with the first proposals having been published by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE). The initial consultation was undertaken last summer closing on 2 August 2021.

The initial proposals for the West Midlands include revised boundaries for both the Kenilworth & Southam Constituency and the Warwick and Leamington Constituency. These would have electorates of 74,107 and 72,784 respectively, being the two largest electorates of the five in Warwickshire, however these were not the largest in the region; that being over 77,000; nor the smallest, which is just under 70,000.

LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

The remit of the Boundary Commission for England for this review sets the UK electoral quota for the 2023 to the nearest whole number, 73,393. Accordingly, every recommended constituency (except the five 'protected' constituencies) must have an electorate as at 2 March 2020 that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. There would be a further review of constituency boundaries, but this would not be for another 8 years after the completion of the 2023 review.

For reference at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report were maps that outline the current Constituency Boundaries and the proposed, overlaid with each other.

This Committee previously responded to the consultation on behalf of Warwick District Council as set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

The latest round of consultation had seen no proposed changes to the original proposals from the BCE and therefore retains the inclusion of the current District Ward of Budbrooke within revised Kenilworth & Southam Constituency.

There have been 3902 comments submitted about the proposals for revisions to constituencies in the West Midlands, of which 129 are about the constituencies that represent Warwick District.

There were 96 comments made regarding the Warwick & Leamington Constituency, attached as Appendix 4 to the report, of which 72 comments were specifically about the move of Budbrooke and Bishop's Tachbrook Wards.

There were 33 Comments on the Kenilworth and Southam Constituency, which were attached at Appendix 5 to the report.

Within the responses there were concerns raised about the identification of community, in relation to both constituencies and also the projected electorate growth.

In respect of electorate growth, the law establishing the review did not allow the commission to consider this aspect, which was why this Council carefully developed its response to the initial proposals.

Within the guidelines for such reviews no alternative options had been considered however the Committee could choose to put forward a different submission to the BCE.

It was proposed by Councillor Boad that the Committee considered the merit of moving Radford Semele Ward to the Warwick and Leamington Constituency because the electoral numbers would not make a significant difference and the village of Radford Semele had close community ties with Leamington. The Committee considered the Ward boundary for Radford Semele and the proposed constituency Boundary for Warwick and Leamington. This proposal was duly seconded.

Councillor Illingworth proposed that the wording of recommendation (2) in the report be amended so that it specifically related to the concerns the local community had about the Budbrooke Ward moving. This was duly seconded.

LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

The Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that they may want to wording of the submission to himself in consultation with the Chairman. This was duly proposed and seconded.

The Committee therefore

Resolved that

- (1) the Committee confirms its original position in respect of the proposed boundaries in the minutes of its meeting from 19 July 2021, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report;
- (2) the Committee endorses the comments of the local community who are opposed to the proposals to move Budbrooke Ward into the Kenilworth & Southam Constituency;
- (3) the Boundary Commission be asked to consider moving Radford Semele Ward into the Warwick & Leamington Constituency due to its close community ties; and
- (4) the final wording of the submission be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer in consultation with the chairman of the Committee.

(Councillor Leigh-Hunt arrived during this item and therefore did not participate in the discussions)

27. 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 paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

28. Minutes of Licensing and Regulatory Panels

The confidential minutes of the Licensing & Regulatory Panel held on 2 September 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(The meeting ended at 5.30pm)

CHAIRMAN
11 May 2022