

BOUNDARY AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2014 at 7.00 pm at Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor David Green (Chairman); Councillors Duncan, Tomlinson, W Scobie and Edwards

In Attendance: Glenn Back, Lyn Davey, Matthew Sanham, Justine Wingate

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Gideon, Nicholson and Roberts. Cllr M. Tomlinson was present as a substitute for Councillor Gideon and Cllr Edwards was present as a substitute for Councillor Nicholson.

16. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors Duncan, Edwards, M.Tomlinson and W.Scobie declared that they were Margate Charter Trustees.

17. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Duncan and seconded by Councillor W.Scobie and AGREED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 July 2014 were a correct record.

18. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Councillor King was present and spoke until Council Procedure Rule 24.1.

Glenn Back the Council's Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager outlined the report. He thanked Justine Wingate the Council's Corporate Information Manager for her hard work relating to the door to door canvass drop. He indicated that the consultation had indicated support for a Westgate Parish Council, but not for a Margate Town Council. Further to this he explained that there were cases in the past where small numbers of people has responded to consultations of this sort and they had still been legally binding.

Matthew Sanham, the Council's Finance Manager (Service Support) added that he expected the cash income of Margate Charter Trustees to stay approximately the same going forward and that Westgate Parish Council would have a year one precept of approximately £36 which would then drop to about £25 in the following years.

After further discussion Matthew Sanham confirmed that it wouldn't be possible to produce an accurate final precept figure until it had been decided to move forward and decisions regarding staffing had been finalised.

In response to comments raised by Councillor King, Glenn Back confirmed that he would look in to the issue of transfer of assets from Margate Charter trustees to Westgate Parish Council.

The Working Party discussed whether it was possible to recommend the creation of a Margate Town Council despite the consultation response. The Working Party were reminded of the written advice from Peter Reilly, TDC Litigation Solicitor which confirmed that the consultation results had shown there was no evidence of the people of Margate wanting a Town Council.

Councillor M.Tomlinson proposed and Councillor Duncan seconded and it was AGREED that:

The Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working party recommend to Council the creation of a Westgate Parish Council, but that the remainder of the area retains Charter Trustees.

19. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Glenn Back, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager outlined the report on Polling Districts and Places.

Councillor W.Scobie explained that he was happy with the change to Salmestone ward. Councillor D.Green asked Officers to look again at St Lawrence College.

It was then proposed by Councillor W.Scobie and seconded by Councillor Duncan and AGREED that:

The Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party recommend to Council that it adopts the proposed revised polling district and polling places scheme for implementation on 1 December 2014.

Meeting concluded : 8.15 pm