

## General Purposes Committee

Date: 23 February 2010

Present: Councillor G E Bunting (Chairman), Councillors Mrs L E Beaumont, A J Ewart-James, S Hayward, S Lawrence (substitute for Councillor M J A Lyons), Mrs S E F Newlands and Mrs C J Waters.

Officers Present: M Parkinson, Corporate Director; J Chambers, Head of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer; C Thomas, Information and Electoral Manager; L Burley Committee Services Manager and L Jones, Committee Administrator.

Others Present: Kent County Councillor W L Richardson.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor M J A Lyons.

The Chairman extended a welcome to Councillor S Hayward after a period of absence due to ill health. The Chairman also spoke of the extreme bad weather and hoped it has not affected Councillor Mrs S E F Newlands property.

### 10. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 11. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on [10 November 2009](#) were submitted, approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 12. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

[REPORT GP/09/04](#) sets out the responses to the consultation undertaken on the Lydd Community Governance Review and makes recommendations on the review.

The Chairman advised the Committee on an error in the report, paragraph 6.14 should read:-

‘The southern boundary where it crosses Coast Drive, whilst not fatal to the creation of a new parish based on the Lydd DC polling district alone is however particularly “weak.” The area south of the line is not distinguishable from the remainder of the polling district until the unique

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area of Dungeness is reached. Some of the correspondents have suggested extending the new parish to Battery Road to accommodate this.'

The Head of Corporate Services presented the report to the Committee and confirmed the following:

- A 49.3% turnout is comparable to turnout in local elections
- Results of the referendum show a clear majority of 70.6% who voted in favour of a the creation of a new parish
- Correspondence and a petition from residents show a desire for part or all of Lydd DB polling district to be encompassed within the boundaries of the new parish
- That the statutory provisions and guidance, section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have been followed closely
- That the function of General Purposes Committee is to make a recommendation to Council

The Head of Corporate Services outlined the four options open to the Committee and recommended option 4; 'to agree in principle to the creation of a new parish for Lydd DC polling district but consult on the inclusion in the new parish of Lydd DB polling district.' This option appears to be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient and therefore satisfies the statutory provisions and guidance which the Council must follow. It is also important that the views of the residents of Lydd DB are sought in order to get this right first time.

Due to the forthcoming parliamentary Election, the timeline set out in paragraph 4 of the report is likely to be revised. The Head of Corporate Services went on to say that Council will consider the community governance recommendations at the Council meeting following the annual meeting and that the Community Governance Order would need to be made shortly after that. However, the date the elections to any new parish council would remain as 5 May 2011.

The Chairman invited Kent County Councillor W L Richardson to speak. Councillor W L Richardson highlighted the following points:-

- The history of Dungeness and links with Lydd
- That if residents of Lydd DB polling district wanted to have been part of a new parish then they would have come forward and stated their position
- A referendum would cause unwanted stress on the elderly community of Lydd DB polling district

The Committee discussed the report and put questions to The Head of Corporate Services who clarified the following:-

- Lydd DA polling district covers the area referred to as 'Lydd Town'
- Secretary of State authority is not required
- The Coastal Community Group were democratically elected

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- The Cinque Ports status should not be affected by the creation of a new parish
- A revised time table will be circulated to members of the General Purposes Committee

The Committee decided to vote on the recommendations separately.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs L E Beaumont  
Seconded by Councillor A J Ewart-James and

**RESOLVED:**

1. ***To receive and note Report GP/09/04.***

(Voting: For 7; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S E F Newlands  
Seconded by Councillor A J Ewart-James and

**RESOLVED:**

2. ***That the Committee supports the creation of a new parish but that before making recommendations on this that the terms of reference for the review be amended as follows:***

***“That Shepway District Council undertakes a Community Governance Review under the provisions of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 in respect of the area comprising the Lydd DB Polling District. The objective of the review will be to determine whether or not the area should be included in a new parish for that area and the Lydd DC Polling District and if so, to decide on the name of the parish and the electoral arrangements for the new council (number of councillors), warding arrangements (if any) and ordinary year of election.”***

(Voting: For 7; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S E F Newlands  
Seconded by Councillor Mrs L E Beaumont

**RESOLVED:**

3. ***To carry out a referendum on the possible inclusion of Lydd Polling District DB in any new parish by way of postal ballot with options of Internet, freephone and text voting;***

(Voting: For 6; Against 1; Abstentions 0)

Proposed by Councillor G E Bunting  
Seconded by Councillor S Lawrence

**RESOLVED:**

- 4. To receive a further report on the results of the referendum together with final recommendations on the Community Governance Review.**

(Voting: For 7; Against 0; Abstentions 0)

The Head of Corporate Services confirmed he would write to the secretariat to the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports to confirm Cinque Ports status.

The Head of Corporate Services confirmed to Councillor Mrs L E Beaumont that option the option of internet, freephone and text voting would be available for the referendum of Lydd DB Polling District residents.