

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 11th December, 2013.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Kathryn Nelson); Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Mark Chatburn, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Michael Clark, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Phillip Dennis, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Ben Houchen, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Ray McCall, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr David Rose, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Andrew Stephenson, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: N Schneider (CE); J Danks, B Brown (R), J Humphreys (CESC); P Dobson (DNS); P Kelly (DPH); D E Bond, P K Bell (LD).

Also in attendance: Members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Elliot Kennedy, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Tracey Stott and Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

C Declarations of Interest

81/13

There were no interests declared.

C Proposal to Change Ward Name

82/13

Consideration was given to a report on the outcome of the consultation on changing the name of Hardwick Ward to Hardwick and Salters Lane Ward.

Following a number of requests from residents in the area, the Local Councillors for Hardwick Ward, Councillors Norma Stephenson and Nigel Cooke, enquired about changing the ward name from Hardwick to Hardwick and Salters Lane. The reason for the change was that it was felt that the proposed new ward name better reflected the community identity of the area. The proposed change was also supported by the Labour Group. On 8 May, Council considered a report outlining the legislative requirements to achieve a change of ward name and agreed the procedure for dealing with this and future proposals.

When conducting reviews, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England based its decisions to change the names of wards and divisions on which name they considered best reflected the communities within the ward. The Commission also sought to ensure that ward names were sufficiently distinct from other ward names in the district to avoid any confusion.

The exercise of the Council's power to change a ward name was delegated to the Director of Law and Democracy, subject to Council approval to the change.

Section 59 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled a Local Authority to agree to change the names of any of its electoral areas (normally known as wards) by passing a resolution at a Special Meeting of the full Council held for that purpose, subject to the statutory procedure being followed. The Act specified steps that must be taken by an Authority in order to change the name which were summarised within the report.

The procedure that was agreed by Council for dealing with this proposal and any future proposals to change a ward name in order to establish consistency was detailed within the report.

In line with the procedure agreed by Council, information was published on the Council's web site and displayed in local libraries / community centres and a press release was issued. As the Annual Canvass commenced on 1 October 2013, the opportunity was also taken to include a consultation letter with the Annual Voter Registration Form to every household in the Hardwick Ward. Responses could be sent back to the Council in the pre-paid envelope together with the voter registration form.

A total of 456 responses were received to the consultation. 294 respondents were in agreement with changing the ward name and 151 respondents were against the change. 11 respondents had no view.

Residents were also invited to submit comments and details of these were attached to the report.

RESOLVED that Hardwick Ward be renamed Hardwick and Salters Lane Ward.