

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Tuesday 12th July 2005, at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT Councillors G. N. Denaro, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., Mrs J. M. L. A. Griffiths, D. Hancox, C.B. Lanham, P. M. McDonald, N. Psirides J. P., G. G. Selway, Mrs. C. J. Spencer and E. C. Tibby

1/05 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: that Councillor D. Hancox be elected Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

2/05 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: that Councillor Mrs. C. J. Spencer be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

3/05 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

4/05 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

Councillor C. .B. Lanham declared a personal interest in agenda items 6 (1) and 6(2) as a Member of Stoke Parish Council and as a resident of the areas concerned.

5/05 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 17th February 2004 were submitted.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

6/05 **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RELATING TO NON-CONFIDENTIAL AND NON-EXEMPT ITEMS**

The Report of the Head of Administrative Services relating to non-confidential and non-exempt items was submitted.

Arising therefrom:

(1) **PARISH REVIEWS**

The Head of Administrative Services reported that four Parish Councils within the District had requested a review of the number of elected members for their authorities. The requests arose partly from the criterion of the Quality Parish Councils scheme that Councils qualifying for the scheme would need to have all their members elected. Some of the Parishes had experienced difficulties in attracting people to stand as Parish Councillors.

The Parishes which had requested reviews were :-

- Beoley
- Hagley
- Lickey and Blackwell
- Stoke

The review process would include a period of public consultation on any changes which are proposed, further consideration of the proposal by this Committee in the light of responses received followed by a decision on the proposal. If any of the Parishes had been the subject of any review in the last five years the proposal would also require the approval by the Electoral Commission. The Parish Councils concerned would be asked to assist in the consultation exercises.

Members were of the opinion that the requests submitted by each of the Parish Councils should be the subject of a consultation exercise.

RESOLVED that consultation exercises be undertaken in respect of the requests submitted by the four Parish Councils detailed in the report submitted and the outcome of those exercises be reported to a future meeting of this Committee

(2) **POLLING DISTRICTS , STOKE HEATH WARD**

The Head of Administrative Services reported that the Council's ward boundaries were altered in 2003 resulting in two polling districts being created in the Stoke Heath Ward one of which was with the Parish of Stoke Prior and one was not. The Parish boundary had now been revised and the whole of the Stoke Heath Ward was within the Parish and there was therefore no need for two separate polling districts

RESOLVED that polling districts SA and SB be amalgamated into a single polling district SA and that the Order relating to the District's polling arrangements be amended to reflect this.

The Meeting closed at 6.25 p.m.

Chairman