



**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
LOOSE PARISH COUNCIL**

Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Pavilion, KGVPF

Councillors taking part: Vianne Gibbons (Chairman)(VG), Jim Andrew (JA), Peter Rigby (PR), Andrew Richards (AKR) and Darren Carpenter (DC)

Also present:

Susan Grigg (MBC Ward Councillor for Loose) (SG) and Kim Owen (Clerk)(KO) who took the minutes.

There were four members of the public involved in the meeting.

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Tony Oliver (TO), Susan Luckhurst (SL), Charlie Hollister (CH) and Terry McKeown (TM)

No apologies were received from Velma Bennett.

2. To receive and agree any decision regarding any item to be taken as confidential

None.

3. To receive any declarations of pecuniary interest on items in the agenda

(In accordance with the NALC Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils (pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011). In addition, any declaration of personal or prejudicial interest. *(as agreed by LPC 21 Jan 13)*)

None.

4. To receive any signed dispensation requests for any item on this agenda

(For Councillors to approve/disapprove as appropriate and to agree the reason for the dispensation if approved. (see dispensation form). This follows the agreement made by the LPC at the meeting held on the 17 July 17)

None.

5. To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes:

The Extraordinary Meeting on 1 March 2022 (Pages 1753-1754)

The minutes of the meetings on 1 March was **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman.

6. To receive updates on the review of MBC warding arrangements and make any necessary decisions

SG explained to residents the process so far and the objectives of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. She advised that there will be a Community Review of Parish Councils starting next year. MBC are proposing half of Loose Ward goes into Boughton Monchelsea and the other half is in with Tovil and North Loose. At the last Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 1 March 2022 it was agreed:

- To keep all of Loose as it is now.
- To look at an option of all of Loose going with Boughton Monchelsea with two Councillors. SG will talk to Boughton Monchelsea about a dual submission for this option.
- To put in an option for all of Loose to stay together and to go in a Ward with Linton (currently the proposal for Linton is to be in a Ward for Marden) with one Councillor.



JA advised that he has looked at the Boundary Commission Electoral Review Technical Guidance document and advises the following:

- Section 1.7 states 'We have limited powers in relation to parish councils. We can neither create nor abolish a parish council. Nor can we change the boundary of an existing parish.'
- Section 1.10 states 'Our decisions are based on evidence and reason. Our approach, therefore, is one of evidence-gathering through consultation with local people and organisations, and the analysis of all the evidence we receive from them.'
- Section 1.12 states 'When conducting electoral reviews in areas that are parished, we try to use parishes as building blocks for new wards or divisions.'
- Section 2.15 states 'Our task is to ensure that our recommendations are based on evidence, and that the representations of all those participating in a review are treated equally and without bias. Consistent with this is our determination that reviews will be conducted with transparency and the involvement of local people.' JA advised that this should mean a submission from an individual will have the same weight as the MBC submission.
- Section 2.16 states 'Provide opportunities for local people and organisations to contribute to reviews'
- Section 2.17 states 'Our approach is, therefore, one of consultation, reliance on evidence, openness, transparency and proportionality. We aim to build as many of our recommendations as possible on locally-generated proposals and, to that end, we will gather as much information and undertake consultation as is appropriate to the purposes and the context of any review. We will publicise the review and we ask that the local authorities, political parties, parish and town councils, community groups, residents' associations and other main stakeholders help us engage with local people in the electoral review process.'
- Section 3.5 states 'Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act sets out the statutory criteria to which we are required to have regard in conducting electoral reviews. In broad terms, in making recommendations, we are required to have regard to: the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities'
- Section 3.6 states 'Included in the community identities and interests criterion is the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable, and which will not break local ties. Our aim is to identify clear and long-lasting boundaries for ward/division. We also take into account factors such as the location and boundaries of parishes and the physical features of the local area when drawing boundaries.'
- Section 3.9 states 'Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act also states that we should take into account any changes to the number and distribution of electors that is likely to take place within the five years following the end of a review. This requirement means that at the start of a review we ask local authorities to provide us with electorate forecasts'
- Section 3.11 states 'We cannot complete a review without first publishing draft recommendations, giving people an opportunity to comment on them and then considering any comments made. Only after doing this can we publish our final recommendations.'



SG advised that consultation on the draft proposal will be from 5 July 2022 to 12 September 2022. Final recommendations by 29 November 2022 and Parliamentary approval will be early 2023.

- Section 3.17 states ‘Our reviews can have consequences for parishes and their councils, and the legislation requires us to make recommendations to the effect that:
 - every ward of a parish having a parish council (whether separate or common) must lie wholly within a single electoral division of the relevant county council, and a single ward of the relevant district council; and
 - every parish which is not divided into parish wards must lie wholly within a single electoral division of the county council and a single ward of the district council.’
- Section 3.24 states ‘As part of an electoral review we cannot make recommendations for changes to the boundaries between local authorities or parishes, or consider the creation of new parishes.’
- Section 4.61 states ‘Our approach to the naming of electoral areas is that, when wards or divisions remain largely unchanged, the existing name should usually be retained.’

JA advised that these points should be considered when making a submission.

JA advised that he attended a Linton Parish Council Meeting on Monday evening to discuss the Boundary Commissions Review with a proposal of Linton and Loose joining together as one ward with one Ward Councillor. Linton are focused on a joining of Linton, Loose and Boughton Monchelsea. No decision was made that evening. The Chairman of Linton Parish Council has already made an individual submission with Linton and Loose being a Ward. There is another meeting next week for the Linton to make a decision on their submission. One of the common features they have with Loose is they also have conservation areas.

VG asked the residents what they would like the LPC to do. They agreed with the original agreement that the LPC made at the Extraordinary Meeting on 1 March 2022.

After discussion it was **AGREED**

- That Loose should stay as one in a Ward and not be split
- The Clerk will complete the draft submission for Loose where Loose stay as a whole and goes in with Linton.
- The submission will be agreed by Round Robin
- That the Council is not adverse with going in with Linton and Boughton Monchelsea as a Ward.

7. Other Items (discussion only)

None.

8. Date of Next Meeting 21 March 2022.

The Meeting ended 8.35pm

Dated.....

Signature.....