

**Creation of Parishes Working Party [Whitwick] held on  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2009.**

Present

Councillors:-

David Everitt  
Tony Gillard  
Derek Howe  
Ian Meller  
Ray Woodward

Officers:-

Melanie Phillips, Democratic Services Manager  
Louise Beeston, Senior Electoral Services Officer

Also in attendance:-

Mr R Stratton, Chair of the Parishing Whitwick Steering Group and Jenny Toal,  
Secretary of the Parishing Whitwick Steering Group.

1. Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED:- That Councillor Howe be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

4. Notes of the Previous Meeting.

The Chairman took the group through the notes of the last meeting and reminded Members of key points which were raised and the decisions made.

RESOLVED:- That the minutes of the previous meeting and the decisions outlined therein, be received and noted.

5. Draft Recommendations

Members were taken through the report of the Democratic Services Manager which set out the proposed draft recommendations following the outcome of the consultation and the comments made by the Group at its last meeting. The Chairman of the Parishing Whitwick Steering Group asked whether consideration could be given to amending the recommendation relating to the boundary to include a small triangle of land to the rear of Tressall Road, Whitwick. It was noted that this slight amendment would not affect any further households as there were no properties therein.

The Democratic Services Manager agreed to include this land in the draft recommendations and she will make sure that details are sent to the Friends of Holly Hayes Wood to enable them to comment together with the three Members from the Greenhill Ward, where the land is situated.

The Democratic Services Manager updated the Group on the outcome of the consultation. It was noted that the total number of responses to the consultation was 49 with 40 being in favour of a Parish Council and 9 against. The results of the consultation have been made available on the website with the addresses removed for data security purposes.

A discussion took place on the support and guidance which would be afforded to the Parish Council, should it be created, both before the election of the Parish Councillors and afterwards. The Democratic Services Manager advised that the Parish Council would be given all the support it needs in its infancy to help it run efficiently until such a time that a clerk had been appointed and the Parish Council felt confident to manage itself. That said, assistance and advice will always be on hand from the District Council. A question was asked about a shadow council being formed before the Parish Council was formally created in April 2011 and elected to in May 2011. The Democratic Services Manager will bring a report on this issue to the next meeting of the Group.

The Group was advised that the draft recommendations would be submitted to Council for approval in January 2010, following which they would be sent to all those people who had made representations as part of the second stage of the consultation. The Group would need to meet again in March to consider the responses received before recommending to Council its final recommendations.

The draft recommendations were set out in full in the report of the Democratic Services Manager and are summarised as follows:-

- That a Parish Council be created in Whitwick
- That the boundary of the Parish Council be as proposed in the petition, subject to an additional triangle of land being included to the rear of Tressall Road, Whitwick.
- That the new name of the new Parish Council be Whitwick Parish Council.
- That the council size for the Parish Council be 11 parish councillors.
- That the parish of Whitwick not be warded.

**RESOLVED:-** That draft recommendations be submitted to Council for approval, subject to a minor amendment to the boundary, as referred to above.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 6.50pm.