

MINUTES
ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
9 JANUARY 2019

Present:

Cllr Anderson
Cllr Douris
Cllr Harden (Substitute for Cllr Marshall)
Cllr Hicks
Cllr Williams (Chair)

Also Present:

Cllrs Maddern and Tindall.

Officers:

S Marshall	Chief Executive
M Anderson	Electoral Registration Team Leader
J Doyle	Elections Team Leader

The meeting began at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Fisher and Marshall.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

4. POLLING PLACES

The committee considered the current and proposed provision of polling stations in four polling districts: Boxmoor Ward, polling district AGB; Tring East Ward, polling district DAA; Nash Mills Ward, (polling districts BA, BAA, and BAB); and Adeyfield West Ward, Polling District AC.

Boxmoor Ward, polling district AGB

After acknowledging the closure of the current venue at Alston Road; maps of the area; and the various options; the members discussed the merits of each option and decided that the administrators of the Church Hall, St Mary and Joseph, on St John's Road be approached to host the Polling Station. Members had considered the option of using Camelot RFC though they agreed that the rough parking and its location away from the population centres of the ward meant that this option was a

Chairman:

good fall back if the Church hall (which had been a polling station in the past) should not prove suitable.

1. Resolved:

That the administrators of the Church Hall, St Mary and Joseph, on St John's Road be approached to host the Polling Station Boxmoor Ward, polling district AGB. In the event of the Church Hall not being available then Camelot RFC be confirmed as the temporary Polling Station for the AGB District for the election on 2 May 2019.

Tring East Ward, polling district DAA

The committee considered issues that had arisen with the use of Grove Road School as the current polling station. They viewed maps of the area and considered views of the access to the proposed venue at the Scout Hut, 200 metres along Grove Road. In addition the committee considered a submission from the Head Teacher of the school setting out reasons in support of moving the polling station away from the school.

While the committee were sympathetic to the move of the polling station, many concerns were expressed about the road access to the parking at the proposed venue which is on a 'fast' section of the road. The prevailing feeling was however that if measures to control the speed of the cars on the road and the provision of bollards to control parking at the entrance could be agreed with the police then it was worth trialling the Scout Hut for the forthcoming local elections.

2. Resolved;

- a That the polling station for Tring East Ward, polling district DAA, be moved from Grove Road Primary School to the Scout Hut, Grove Road.
- b That the Returning Officer include traffic control issues in the risk assessment for the forthcoming local elections and liaise with the SPOC on measures to control speed and parking around the polling station on the day of the election.

Nash Mills Ward, (polling districts BA, BAA, and BAB)

The committee considered the current location of the polling station in Nash Mills C of E School and a submission from the head teacher setting out the safeguarding issues and the difficulties involved in using the school as a polling station. There was a good deal of opposition to moving this polling station due to the need to avoid setting a precedent for all the other schools used as polling stations; a suggested drop in voter turnout; the central location of the current station; and the situation of the proposed station near the boundary of the polling district. However members were of the opinion that the good parking around the proposed polling station; the increased population at the south east end of the ward and the lack of disruption to children's education outweighed the disadvantages and agreed to move the polling station.

4. Resolved;

That the polling station for the Nash Mills Ward, polling districts BA, BAA, and BAB, be moved from Nash Mills C of E School to Nash Mills Parish Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills.

Communal Hall, Adeyfield – Polling District AC

Chairman:

The committee were made aware of the possibility that, due to renovation work being carried out at the venue, the Communal Hall Old House Road, may not be available for elections in May 2019. It was made clear by the committee that any temporary move of the polling station should ensure that the electorate use separate doors at Adeyfield Community Centre in order to lessen the chances of confusion for the electorate. Some members were of the opinion that the move to Adeyfield Community Centre should be made permanent due to its size, availability and location. However, the convenience offered by Communal Hall was set against the poor parking at Queens Square and the committee elected to remain at Communal Hall. The CE advised that officers will consult with those managing the renovation and stress the need for the station to be made available for 2 May this year.

5. Resolved:

That, in the event that Communal Hall is not available, electors in polling district AC will be redirected to the temporary Polling Station in Adeyfield Community Centre; where they will be admitted through a separate entrance.

Resolved to Recommend

1. That Council confirm the following Polling Stations for the elections to be held on 2 May 2019:

- a. **That the administrators of the Church Hall, St Mary and Joseph, on St John's Road be approached to host the Polling Station Boxmoor Ward, polling district AGB. In the event of the Church Hall not being available then Camelot RFC be confirmed as the temporary Polling Station for the AGB District for the election on 2 May 2019.**
- b. **That the polling station for Tring East Ward, polling district DAA, be moved from Grove Road Primary School to the Scout Hut, Grove Road.**
- c. **That the polling station for the Nash Mills Ward, polling districts BA, BAA, and BAB, be moved from Nash Mills C of E School to Nash Mills Parish Village Hall, Lower Road, Nash Mills**
- d. **That, in the event that Communal Hall is not available, electors in polling district AC will be redirected to the temporary Polling Station in Adeyfield Community Centre; where they will be admitted through a separate entrance**

2. That the above polling arrangements be included in a revised Polling Places Order to be presented at a future Council Meeting.

5 2018 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

The committee considered and noted the final recommendations of the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies (began in 2016), which were reported to Government in September 2018. As the report has now been before parliament it can be viewed on the Boundary Commission's website:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review/>.

The committee noted the addition of the areas around Hunton Bridge and West Abbots Langley which would be included in the Hemel Hempstead Constituency should the recommendations make it through both houses of Parliament.

Chairman:

The committee commented on the recommendations purely in electoral administration terms and discussed the implications for the organisation of elections.

The Meeting ended at 21:05

Chairman: