

Agenda Item

Council

21 February 2007

JW



Boundary Change

Summary

The Electoral Services Team have carried out an audit of the complete voter registration. The audit included looking into the accuracy of Parish and Ward boundaries. This was made possible by modern technology. The results showed that the majority of properties in Metcombe had been registered in the wrong ward of Ottery St Mary for some years. The residents were notified and a request was received that the Council revisit the ward boundaries.

Recommendation

That the Council issues an Order under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 - Parish Reviews to the effect that the parish ward boundary between the Ottery St Mary wards of Tipton St John and Metcombe be amended as set out in the report and come into effect prior to the elections on 3 May 2007.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

The amendment to the boundaries has been requested by local residents and appears to be a logical proposition to which no objections have been received.

b) Alternative Options

Not to support the request.

c) Risk Considerations

No risks identified.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

No known policy or budgetary implications.

e) Date for Review of Decision

Not applicable

1 Main Body of the Report

The results of the audit carried out by the Electoral Services team showed that the majority of properties in Metcombe had been registered in the Tipton St John ward of Ottery St Mary parish for many years, whereas they actually fall within the boundaries of the West Hill ward.

A letter of explanation was sent to all residents affected by this situation. At the start of this year the Council received a letter of complaint advising that residents of Metcombe, felt more attached to Tipton St John than to West Hill. The letter asked the Council to reconsider the findings. The findings were correct but this Council does have the authority to amend parish ward boundaries.

As it is logical for anyone living in Metcombe to have a more natural affinity with Tipton St John rather than West Hill, it is recommended that the ward boundaries be amended.

Procedure followed

A further letter was sent to all affected Metcombe residents, advising them of the proposal to move the ward boundaries and inviting feedback. In addition Ottery St Mary Town Council, Devon County Council, Ward Members and all local residents were also consulted.

No objections were received and 9 residents expressed support.

The proposal

It is proposed that the boundary between the Parish Wards of Tipton St John and West Hill be moved in the area around Metcombe to the effect that all the properties in Metcombe, up to and including Hall's Farm, be included within the ward of Tipton St John. The boundary which currently follows the track north from Metcombe to Fluxton (running parallel with the road) will be moved to run west from Fluxton, up the un-metalled road toward West Hill, until level with Hall's Farm where upon it will follow two field boundaries south until it meets with the road above Hall's Farm. The boundary will then follow the brook west to meet with the existing boundary. Please refer to the attached map

The next step

Should the Council agree with this proposal, an Order will be issued under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 - Parish Reviews and the boundary will be amended in time for the elections on 3 May 2007.

Legal Implications

No financial implications within this report

Financial Implications

No legal comments

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

Ottery St Mary Town Council, Devon County Council, Ward Members, directly affected residents and other local residents.

Background Papers

Local Government and Rating Act 1997 – Parish Reviews

Janet Wilson
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