

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Community Governance Review: Petition to merge Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Councils 27th October 2022

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the Terms of Reference document and the consultation timetable for the Community Governance Review for the proposed merger of Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Councils into The Yealands Parish Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To agree the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review for the proposed The Yealands Parish Council.**
- (2) To agree the consultation timetable and additional meeting dates if needed.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Council, at its meeting on 27th July 2022, was advised that a valid petition had been received which would commence a Community Governance Review (CGR) to consider the creation of The Yealands Parish Council by merging the current Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Councils.
- 1.2 A copy of the report to Council is attached at Appendix A, together with a copy of the relevant minute at Appendix B.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 Council has asked this Committee to develop the terms of reference, determine consultation plans and agree a timetable for this CGR.
- 2.2 Attached at Appendix C is a draft Terms of Reference document which will form the basis of discussion at the meeting.
- 2.3 The CGR must be concluded by July 2023.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 This Committee will need to agree the process for consultation, and the timetable to be followed as this will also need to be included in the Terms of Reference document.

3.2 The Review must also consider all aspects of the merging of the two parishes, including the electoral arrangements that would need to be adopted (for example the warding arrangements, the number of Councillors for the new parish, etc), and must also consider and consult on precepting arrangement for the new parish.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 In conducting the CGR, Council Business Committee should consider all aspects of the process to be undertaken. Although there is no standard format for carrying out a review, thought must be given to the most appropriate way to conduct a review which best suits the needs of the area. This can depend on the size and scale of the review to be carried out.

4.2 In all cases the review period must not exceed 12 months. Should agreement be reached to create The Yealands Parish Council, it is expected that a reorganisation order would come into effect on 01 April 2024 to tie into the start of that financial year.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):
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None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Chapter 3 of Part 4 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolved the power to take decisions about such matters as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements to local government and local communities in England. Principal councils are required, by Section 100(4) of the 2007 Act to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State when undertaking reviews and the guidance has been followed in drafting this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the review will be met from existing budgets. As part of the preparation of their business plan for the merged parish consideration was given to the current precept rates which differ between Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Councils. A joint single precept amount has been proposed and details will be included in the terms of reference document to allow transparency as part of the consultation. Timing considerations around precept and tax setting for the new parish must be taken into account, but as long as a decision is reached before December 2023 the new parish will benefit from the precept collected for the financial year commencing 01 April 2024.

There are cost implications for the amendment of the Council Tax system provided by Capita, and this would be at an estimate of £6,500. This cannot be covered from the existing budget held by Democratic Services and would have to be built into future years budgets as part of the budget process.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces
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None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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