

Community Governance Review of the District: Outcome and Order to amend the name of Thurnham Parish Council

26 September 2018

Report of Council Business Committee

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To allow Council to consider agreeing an Order for the amendment of the name of Thurnham Parish Council to "Thurnham with Glasson Parish Council".

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the creation of a Parish for Heysham is not supported.**
- (2) That no further action is taken with regard to the merging of Yealand Redmayne and Yealand Conyers Parish Councils as part of this district wide review.**
- (3) To agree the attached Order for the amendment of the name of Thurnham Parish Council to Thurnham with Glasson Parish Council.**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Council, at its meeting on 27 September 2017, gave approval for the commencement of a full district Community Governance Review. Council Business Committee met on 02 November 2017, 22 February 2018 and 19 July 2018 to ensure that the timetable for the review was met and that responses received could be reported and considered.

2.0 Process

- 2.1 The first stage of the process was to establish the issues that were to be included in the review. Any person or organisation could submit a suggestion, and all suggestions were considered by the Council Business Committee. Three were taken forward to consultation.
- 2.2 A request was received for the creation of Heysham Parish Council. Canvassers were employed to visit all houses within the affected area to try to

make contact with someone within the household, and to leave literature encouraging participating in the process. Canvassers recorded verbal responses received, and written responses were also encouraged. The Council Business Committee considered all of the responses received to the consultation and recommend that they do not support the creation of Heysham Parish Council. Heysham Neighbourhood Council who submitted the original request have been advised that they are entitled to submit a petition on the same issue in the future, and guidance will be provided should they decide to proceed.

2.3 Following support from both Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Councils to merge to one parish council, residents were consulted by letter to ascertain their views. At an early stage in the consultation however it was indicated that a merge may not be in the best interests of the two parishes at the present time, and a request to halt the process was received and agreed by Council Business Committee. The two parish Councils are aware that they can submit a petition at any time for the matter to be reconsidered, and guidance will be provided should they decide to proceed.

2.4 Residents of Thurnham Parish Council were consulted by letter to ask for their views on a change of name to Glasson and Thurnham Parish Council. From the responses received, Council Business Committee made a further suggestion that the name should be "Thurnham with Glasson Parish Council" and a further consultation was carried out. Council Business Committee have considered the responses received to the second consultation (which offered different alternatives) and are of the view that the suggested name of Thurnham with Glasson Parish Council should be confirmed and an order created to reflect this.

3.0 Draft Order for the renaming of Thurnham Parish Council to Thurnham with Glasson Parish Council

3.1 Attached to this report is a draft Order which, if approved by Council, would signify that there is agreement by Lancaster City Council to the amendment of the name with effect from 01 April 2019.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Before proposing the content of the draft Order the Council Business Committee had to be clear that the wishes of the people affected by the proposals are reflected in the outcome. DCLG Guidance on Community Governance Reviews states that in making its recommendations, the review should consider the information it has received in the form of expressions of local opinion on the matters considered by the review, representations made by local people and other interested persons, and also use its own knowledge of the area.

4.2 In making their final decisions, the Committee were also mindful of the guidance that principal councils should not feel forced to recommend that the matters included in the review must be implemented.

Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

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 such 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 to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An amount of £10,000 was included in the 2017/2018 budget and £25,000 in the 2018/2019 budget in order to resource this project. The costs of carrying out the consultations have been met within the budget provision that has been allocated. Reaching a decision by October 2018 should allow sufficient time for council tax records to be updated prior to the release of the 2019/2020 charge notices. It is expected that the amendment of Council tax records should cost no more than £10,000 and sufficient funding for this has been included within the budget allocation for 2019/2020.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:

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 comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Business Committee Agenda and Minutes 19 July 2018

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