

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 29
NOVEMBER 2023

SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL MEETING - <DATE>

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

Present

Cllr Andy MacLeod (Chair)
Cllr John Robini (Vice Chair)
Cllr Janet Crowe
Cllr Michael Goodridge

Cllr Gemma Long
Cllr Peter Nicholson
Cllr John Ward
Cllr Joan Holroyd, Elstead
Parish Council (Co-Optee)

Apologies

Cllr Joan Heagin, Godalming Town Council (Co-Optee)

Also Present

SGP17 MINUTES (Agenda item 2.)

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting on 2 October 2023 were a complete and accurate record.

It was clarified that the minutes weren't presented to the previous Full Council meeting due to time constraints, and they would be reviewed at the meeting on 12 December 2023.

The Chair reminded Members that the first meeting of the Joint Constitutions Review Group would take place on 30 November 2023 and will be recorded for the reference of the Committee.

SGP18 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS (Agenda item 3.)

There were no Disclosures of Interests received.

SGP19 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2023 (Agenda item 6.)

The Committee discussed the Polling District and Polling Place Review for 2023. The Electoral Services Manager outlined the review's process, public consultations, and the responses received. Three polling places were identified for change, and recommendations were made to the Committee for their consideration.

Cllr Beaman registered to speak about the Northwest Farnham 2 polling station, expressing a preference for the Hale Village Institute over the Foley Hill Infant

School. This was supported by reasons highlighting accessibility concerns and disruptions caused by school closures.

Following discussions and considerations from other members, the Committee was asked to make a recommendation for the polling place for Farnham Northwest 2. The Committee were in favor of recommending the Hale Village Institute, aligning with both public responses and local representatives' preferences.

The Chair asked the Committee to vote on the proposed polling place for Farnham Northwest 2, as Hale Village Institute Hall. The Committee were in unanimous agreement.

The Standards and General Purposes Committee therefore resolved to recommend that Full Council approves;

- (a) the polling place for Farnham North West 2 as Hale Village Institute Hall; and upon doing so**
- (b) that that Full Council approves the proposed polling districts and polling places as set out in appendix 1 to this report, including the polling place for Farnham North West 2.**

SGP2 TEMPORARY DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES IN CRANLEIGH EAST AND GODALMING BINSCOMBE & CHARTERHOUSE (Agenda item 7.)

The Committee raised concerns about the lack of parking capacity and the risk of overcrowding at the St John's Evangelist Church, the proposed Temporary Polling Place for Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse.

There were suggestions from Cllrs Follows and Crowe to consider the use of the Broadwater Youth Centre site as a polling place. The Electoral Services Manager explained that the polling place was on the opposite end of Charterhouse ward and would not be easily accessible for voters in the Charterhouse area.

The Committee recommended that extra parking arrangements at (a) North Street Car Park and (b) The National Rail owned car park, Farncombe Station and extra marshalling should be secured beforehand.

Members agreed that the location was accessible for voters in both wards and there was agreement among members to support the officer's recommendation while emphasising the need for additional parking solutions. It was proposed to investigate the use of North Street Car Park, The Farncombe Station Car Park and other nearby parking options to mitigate potential parking issues at the designated polling place.

The Chairman invited the Committee to vote on the Officer's recommendation.
The vote was lost with a majority vote against.

Cllr Crowe proposed an amendment to part (c) of the recommendation;
“(c) Godalming Charterhouse – St John the Evangelist Church; contingent upon further suitable parking arrangements being sought.”

The amendment was carried with a unanimous vote in favour.

The Committee therefore resolved to recommend that the Council approves a temporary designation of polling places until the usual venues are available for:

- (a) Cranleigh East 1 – St Nicolas Church Rooms
- (b) Godalming Binscombe – Waverley Family Centre
- (c) Godalming Charterhouse – St John the Evangelist Church; contingent upon further suitable parking arrangements being sought.

SGP21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda item 8.)

There were no exempt items to consider.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 6.36 pm

Chairman

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