

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

27 June 2016

MINOR AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION – WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Consequent to the ward boundary changes following last year's Local Government Boundary Commission Review, an amendment to the Constitution, to reflect to the Town Forum's terms of reference, is required. The changes reflect the reduction to the number of Town Wards from six to five. In addition, Littleton and Harestock Parish was split into two Parish Wards. The Harestock Parish Ward was taken into the extended St Barnabas (City Council) Ward, and the Littleton Parish Ward was placed into the City Council Wonston and Micheldever Ward.

Consequently, it is suggested that the Forum has regard to this in the same way that it has done so previously for Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Parishes, i.e. when considering 'cross boundary' matters involving adjoining areas.

In view of the fact that part of St Barnabas Ward (Harestock Parish Ward) is within Littleton and Harestock Parish, the Section 35 "Town Charge" provisions will not apply to that part of the St Barnabas Ward, in order to avoid double-charging residents. This is because the Parish Council will continue to provide services which would within Section 35, and residents will pay a precept (which will be passed to the Parish Council) to cover these services.

The terms of reference, with the proposed changes shown in bold, are set out in Appendix 1 below.

RECOMMENDATION:

That it be recommended to Council that the additions to terms of reference of the Winchester Town Forum be approved, as set out in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Proposed changes to the Constitution – Terms of Reference for Winchester Town Forum

APPENDIX 1

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM - TERMS OF REFERENCE

- a) To act as a consultative and advisory body regarding issues affecting the **five** Winchester Town District Wards which, on occasions, may also include 'cross-boundary' matters involving adjoining areas (e.g. Badger Farm **and** Olivers Battery ~~and Harestock~~) **and the Littleton Parish Ward area of the parish of Littleton and Harestock.**
- b) To forward any recommendations for action principally to Cabinet, but also to one of the regulatory Committees and/or Council when appropriate. However, no discussions shall take place about specific applications which fall within the remit of any of the Council's regulatory committees.
- c) To promote community engagement within the Town Wards, by undertaking consultation exercises or encouraging the formation of community groups.
- d) To consider the draft capital and revenue budget for the S35 Town Account each year and to make recommendations to Cabinet and Council.
- e) Within the Council's policy framework and the framework of the S35 Town Account Revenue Budget:
 - a. to incur expenditure;
 - b. to set fees and charges;
 - c. to make decisions in connection with the operation or management of property or facilities;
 - d. to make arrangements for special events;
 - e. to scrutinise budget and other performance monitoring reports;
 - f. to authorise incurring expenditure up to a limit of £50,000 on Town Account capital schemes within the approved capital programme under Financial Procedure Rule 6.4.
 - g. to authorise virement of a sum of £25,000 or less in total in any one year between budget heads subject to:
 - i. The virement being in respect of a budget within the S35 Town Account and that the base budget is not increased; and
 - ii. Where in the opinion of the Head of Finance the provisions of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (Rules 7.4 (b) to (d) and 7.5) on virement are met.
 - h. To consider the programme of schemes within the Town Wards to be funded from the Open Spaces Fund each year and to make recommendations to Cabinet and the portfolio holder.

PROVIDED THAT these provisions shall not apply to that part of St Barnabas Ward that is within the Parish of Littleton and Harestock (Harestock Parish Ward)

VOTING

- apart from the Chairman, every Member has one vote when a matter before the meeting requires a decision.
- in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman may exercise a casting vote and that vote may be exercised in any way seen fit.
- a Member may abstain from voting, or vote differently from how they may have indicated during the debate, without further explanation.
- the way each Member voted will not be recorded in the minutes, unless a motion to have a Recorded Vote has been passed.