

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
7 NOVEMBER 2012

(19:15 to 19:47)

PRESENT: Councillors Peter McCabe (Chair), Laxmi Attawar, John Dehaney, Samantha George, Janice Howard, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Ian Munn, Debbie Shears, Linda Taylor and Martin Whelton.

Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Paul Evans (Assistant Director Corporate Governance), Michael Bentley (Head of Electoral Services) and Colin Millar (Democracy Services)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 1)

None were made

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2)

None

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda item 3)

These were tabled. Noted that they would be formally presented for agreement at the next meeting.

4 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES (Agenda item 4)

In respect of Abbey Ward it was proposed and seconded by Councillors Whelton and Munn that All Saints Church Hall should be designated as a polling place and that all other arrangements for Abbey Ward remain the same.

For 5 against 1 – carried.

The other recommendations were agreed and it was

RESOLVED: (1) That in respect of Abbey Ward it is recommended to Council that All Saints Church Hall be designated and all other arrangements remain the same.

(2) That the General Purposes Committee recommends that the full Council makes no change to the polling districts and polling places for Pollards Hill Ward.

(3) That the General Purposes Committee recommends that the full Council agrees the designation of Drake House as the polling place for polling district MC in Hillside Ward and Gifford House as the polling place for polling district FC in Ravensbury Ward.

(4) That the General Purposes Committee recommends that the full Council makes no change to the polling place for polling district SD in Cannon Hill Ward.

5 DISEPNSATIONS (Agenda item 5)

RESOLVED: (1) That it be recommended to Council that the following dispensations be granted from Section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 on the

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basis that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business to impede the transaction of the business, such dispensations to be made in respect of members of the Council and take effect from 21 November 2012 for the period of 4 years:

- (i) housing, where the member is a tenant of the authority; provided that those functions do not relate particularly to that member's tenancy or lease;
 - (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where the member is a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or is a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
 - (iii) an allowance, payment, pension or indemnity given to members;
 - (iv) any ceremonial honour given to members; and
 - (v) setting Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (2) That it be recommended to Council that the Monitoring Officer be designated as the proper officer of the authority for the purposes of written requests by a Member(s) or co-opted Member(s) of the authority for the grant of a dispensation.
 - (3) That it be recommended to Council that the power to grant dispensations pursuant to section 33 Localism Act 2011, be delegated to the Monitoring Officer and be subject to a right of appeal to the Standards Committee.
 - (4) That it be recommended to Council that where the Monitoring Officer has used his delegated powers to grant a dispensation a report on the use of the power be prepared and submitted to the next meeting of the Standards Committee.
 - (5) Subject to agreement to the above, that the constitutional amendments set out in a separate report on this agenda are recommended to Council.

6 CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION (Agenda item 6)

Article 3.2 – members asked if there could be clarification included as the consequences for not complying with the first sentence in Article 3.2. The Chair suggested that if members wished to propose a form of words to they could do so at the Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the General Purposes Committee recommends that the Council adopts the changes to the constitution detailed in the report.

7 WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda item 7)

Member's mobile working – The director undertook to provide information on the effect on members of the new mobile working arrangements. If there were outstanding issues these would be reported to the next meeting of the committee.