

## GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 17 October 2018

**Present: Councillor Joy Podbury (Chairman)  
Councillors Hastie (Vice-Chairman), Ellis, Dr Hall and Simmons**

**Officers in Attendance:** Keith Trowell (Team Leader - Corporate Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)) and Mark O'Callaghan (Democratic Services Officer)

**Other Members in Attendance:** None

### APOLOGIES

GP1/18 Apologies were received for Councillors Gooda and Mrs Thomas. Councillor Lewis-Grey was not present.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

GP2/18 There were no disclosable pecuniary or other significant interests declared at the meeting.

### NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK

GP3/18 There were no Visiting Members who had registered as wishing to speak.

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 6 JULY 2016

GP4/18 Members reviewed the minutes, no amendments were proposed.

Councillor Hastie referred to minute GP5/16 in which he had enquired whether the Council was a living wage employer, the response had been that "insofar as all salaries paid equated to the living wage". He noted that if someone was part-time that might skew the figures slightly and sought confirmation whether the Council was in a position to declare that it was a living wage employer. In response to a question from Councillor Simmons, he added that it was his intention to include all staff of the Council. It was agreed that a response would be sought outside the meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting dated 6 July 2016 be approved as a correct record.

### CHANGE OF NAME OF BRENCHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

GP5/18 Mr Keith Trowell, Team Leader of Corporate Governance for Mid-Kent Legal Services, introduced the report which included the following comments:

- The request to change the name of the Parish originated from a decision at the annual meeting of the Parish Council on 8 May 2017.
- Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 gave the Council the discretionary power to consider the request and Part 3 of the Constitution assigned this function to the General Purposes Committee.

- There was no statutory process for considering the name change, however, it was a requirement that notice of any change be given to the Secretary of State, the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey and the Registrar-General.
- Brenchley Parish also included the village of Matfield and the request of the Parish Council was to recognise the equal importance of the villages it served.
- Community engagement events had been arranged in both villages, there was a Brenchley and Matfield school and a joint Brenchley and Matfield website. The proposed name change would further endorse the connection.
- The request was formally received by the Council on 8 June 2018 and had cleared various stages before being presented to this committee.
- Whilst not required for the process, the Parish Council had undertaken a 3-week public consultation exercise with local residents. All consultation responses were set out at Appendix A to the report.
- No objections to the proposals had been received.

The discussion included consideration of the following additional matters:

- Matfield did not currently have its own parish council.
- There were no costs involved in the name change.
- The effort to consult local residents should be applauded and was over and above what was needed formally.
- One consultee had suggested the name be Matfield and Brenchley but otherwise did not object to the proposed name.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the change of name request received from Brenchley Parish Council be noted; and
2. That the name of the Parish of Brenchley be changed to the Parish of Brenchley and Matfield, pursuant to Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **URGENT BUSINESS**

GP6/18      There was no urgent business.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

GP7/18      The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 9 January 2019 commencing at 6.30pm.

#### **NOTES:**

The meeting concluded at 6.40 pm.

An audio recording of this meeting is available on the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council website.