

Council Meeting – 6 October 2009

Community Governance Review - Cotford St Luke

Report of the Legal and Democratic Services Manager

(This matter is the responsibility of Councillor Ross Henley, Leader of the Council)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of the outcome of the Community Governance Review and to recommend that an Order be made for the creation of a new Parish Council for Cotford St Luke.

2. Background

- 2.1 The village of Cotford St Luke falls within the Parish of Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone and we have received a petition, signed by 256 electors of Cotford St Luke, calling upon the Council under statutory powers, to create a new Parish Council for Cotford St Luke. This petition satisfied the statutory requirement to undertake a formal Community Governance Review.
- 2.2 As part of a Boundary Review in 2005, Taunton Deane proposed formal warding of the Parish of Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone to create a new parish ward encompassing Cotford St Luke in order to facilitate the eventual creation of a separate Parish Council.
- 2.3 This was accepted by the Boundary Committee for England who made the appropriate Order, namely The Borough of Taunton Deane (Electoral Changes) Order 2007. It is anticipated that the new civil parish would be coterminous with the boundaries of the existing Cotford St Luke Ward.

3. Community Governance Review

- 3.1 Following receipt of the petition a formal Community Governance Review was carried out in order to satisfy ourselves, as required by law, that the electors of Cotford St Luke would be best served, in terms of effective and convenient local government, by the creation of a new Parish Council for Cotford St Luke.
- 3.2 Consultation took place with the following:-

Somerset County Council, including the appropriate Division Member;
Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council;
Cotford St Luke Community Association;
Taunton Deane Ward Members; and
Somerset Association of Local Councils.
- 3.3 In addition a Notice was placed in the Somerset County Gazette inviting comments.

4. **Outcome of Consultation**

- 4.1 As anticipated there was overwhelming support for the proposal and no adverse comments were received from any interested party. In addition the Community Scrutiny Committee also gave the proposal their support on the 18 August 2009.

5. **Recommendation**

- 5.1 That Full Council be **recommended** to approve the appropriate Order under statutory powers, for the creation of a new Parish Council for Cotford St Luke to coincide with elections planned for May 2011. The boundaries of the parish to be coterminous with the existing Cotford St Luke Ward of Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council and to be known as Cotford St Luke Parish Council.

Contact: Legal and Democratic Services Manager, Tonya Meers
Tel: 01823 356391 email: t.meers@tauntondeane.gov.uk