

At the Special Meeting of the **WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL** held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILWORTHY PARK, TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **28th** day of **JANUARY 2014** at **10.00am** pursuant to Notice given and Summons duly served.

Present Cllr W G Cann OBE – The Mayor (In the Chair)

Cllr S C Bailey	Cllr K Ball
Cllr M J R Benson	Cllr D W Cloke
Cllr M V L Ewings	Cllr C Hall
Cllr T J Hill	Cllr L J G Hockridge
Cllr A F Leech	Cllr C M Marsh
Cllr J R McInnes	Cllr J B Moody
Cllr N Morgan	Cllr M E Morse
Cllr D E Moyse	Cllr C R Musgrave
Cllr T G Pearce	Cllr P J Ridgers
Cllr R F D Sampson	Cllr D K A Sellis
Cllr J Sheldon	Cllr D Whitcomb

Head of Paid Service
Head of Corporate Services
Monitoring Officer
Democratic Services Manager

CM 61 MR ROGER COLLINS

Following the sad news that Mr Roger Collins, Head of Building Control until his retirement almost three years ago, had recently passed away, the Council stood as a mark of respect and observed a minute's silence.

In addition, the Mayor confirmed that, on behalf of the Council, he would be sending a letter of condolence to the family of Mr Collins.

CM 62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R E Baldwin, A Clish-Green, D W Horn, R J Oxborough, L B Rose, P R Sanders, E H Sherrell and D M Wilde.

CM 63 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Mayor invited Members to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting, but there were none made.

CM 64 BOUNDARY REVIEW – DRAFT WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

A report was considered which sought to make a Council submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on alternative warding arrangements for West Devon Borough Council.

To enable the debate, the recommendations as outlined in the presented agenda report were moved by Cllr J R McInnes and seconded by Cllr M J R Benson.

In discussion, the following points were raised:-

- (a) It was requested that Members' appreciation be extended to the Chairman of the Political Structures Working Group and the Democratic Services Manager for their hard work and efforts during this stage of the Review;
- (b) Some Members were of the view that the Council should agree no more than two of the four potential options to be included in its submission to the LGBCE;
- (c) The comment was expressed that the electoral inequalities were largely prompted by the Hatherleigh and Lew Valley Wards. As a consequence, a simple solution would be to recommend to the LGBCE that the remainder of the Borough wards should remain as they were, with the Council Size being increased to 32 in order to address the electorate variances in Hatherleigh and Lew Valley;
- (d) A number of concerns were raised in respect of the accuracy of the electorate forecast figures which had been supplied;
- (e) The importance of all Members, local town and parish councils, community groups and residents submitting their own comments and potential warding arrangements to the LGBCE before the deadline of 3 February 2014 was again emphasised;
- (f) Members recognised the importance of the general principles and specific points being included in the Council Submission;
- (g) Some Members felt that the greater the number of parishes that a Member was being asked to serve, the more difficult the role became and the harder it would be to attract potential candidates to stand for Council;
- (h) An amendment to part 1 of the motion was moved by Cllr R F D Sampson and seconded by Cllr P J Ridgers as follows:-

'1. That, in addition to the general principles and specific points in Appendix A, Option 4 be submitted to the LGBCE, the latter being the most effective arrangement in purely arithmetical terms of variation from the desired mean. However, this option does not satisfactorily address all community relationships and further detailed representations should be encouraged as to the circumstances of the individual wards. The Council also notes that an additional Member (making a Council Size of 32) would ease the difficulty of reconciling arithmetical and community issues in the north of the Borough.'

Whilst some Members advised of their support for the amendment, other Members expressed their concerns over Option 4 being the

Council's preferred option. These particular concerns arose primarily in light of the proposal to generate a three Member ward for the Hatherleigh, Highampton, Iddesleigh, Inwardleigh, Meeth, Monkokehampton and Northlew area and the sheer size of the proposed Dartmoor Forest, Meavy, Sampford Spiney, Sheepstor and Walkhampton ward.

When put to the vote, the amendment was declared **CARRIED**.

It was then "**RESOLVED**:"

1. That, in addition to the general principles and specific points in Appendix A, Option 4 be submitted to the LGBCE, the latter being the most effective arrangement in purely arithmetical terms of variation from the desired mean. However, this option does not satisfactorily address all community relationships and further detailed representations should be encouraged as to the circumstances of the individual wards. The Council also notes that an additional Member (making a Council Size of 32) would ease the difficulty of reconciling arithmetical and community issues in the north of the Borough; and
2. That authority be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Chairman of the Political Structures Working Group, to finalise the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England before the deadline of 3 February 2014."

(The Meeting terminated at 11.45 am)