

CONSTITUTIONAL PANEL

MEETING, 29TH FEBRUARY, 2016

Present – Councillors Morris (Chairman), Adia, Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh and Mrs Thomas.

Also in Attendance

Mrs. M. Asquith	-	Chief Executive
Mrs. H. Gorman	-	Borough Solicitor
Ms. S. Johnson	-	Borough Treasurer
Mr. S. Blyth	-	Elections Manager
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A. Ibrahim and Peel.

Councillor Morris in the Chair

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Constitutional Panel held on 11th January, 2016 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

18. POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING STATION CHANGE

The Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer submitted a report which sought member's approval to reinstate previous arrangements for Halliwell Ward with regard to former Polling Districts 1PA1 and 1PI1.

Members were reminded that, as part of the review of Polling Districts and Polling Station in 2013/2014, two Polling Districts in Halliwell were merged. The Polling Districts were 1PA1 and 1PI1 and these were merged into a new 1PA1 district which consisted of approximately 2,000 electors. The new polling

place was retained at St Matthews Church on Brownlow Way as it was on the boundary of the two existing Polling Districts.

Following the change a complaint had recently been received which stated that electors from the former district 1PA1 found the polling place to be too far from their homes as the current Polling District was split in two by Brownlow Way which had proved to be a barrier to electors in the former district. Ward Members also agreed with the complainant.

It was also explained that this was the only outstanding complaint which had been received about the Polling Districts and Polling Stations in advance of the local elections in May, 2016 and the EU Referendum in June, 2016. Furthermore, members were advised that this issue needed to be dealt with as a matter of urgency as if it was not approved before the register was updated and published in March, 2016 it would be unable to address it before the next elections and referendum.

Resolved – (i) That, in view of the complaint received, it be agreed that Polling District 1PA1 be split into two to create a new 1PA1 and 1PI1 Polling Districts.

(ii) That it be agreed that St Matthews Church be retained as the polling place for 1PA1 and ideally the Church of the Nazarene for 1PI1.