

ACCOUNTS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

19 OCTOBER 2010

Present :- Councillor Dennis Willetts (Chairman)
Councillors Christopher Arnold, Nick Cope,
Scott Greenhill, Sue Lissimore, Jon Manning,
Colin Mudie, Kim Naish, Gerard Oxford and Colin Sykes

Also in Attendance :- Councillor Paul Smith

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

14. Community Governance Review Fordham Parish Council

Councillor Arnold, Ward Councillor for Fordham and Stour said the Fordham Parish Councillors work extremely hard, therefore increasing the number of parish councillors from seven to nine will be a sensible decision. Councillor Arnold said both he and Councillor Chapman, also Ward Councillor for the Fordham and Stour Ward supported the recommendation.

RESOLVED that the committee approved the request from Fordham Parish Council to increase the number of councillors by two from seven to nine.

15. Community Governance Review - Wivenhoe Town Council

Councillor Manning, Ward Councillor for Wivenhoe Cross said he was happy with the proposal, that the parish councillors work very hard, amplified by the difficulty at times in getting a core attendance at meetings, exacerbated when councillors are sick. Councillor Manning said he supported the recommendation.

RESOLVED that the committee approved the request from Wivenhoe Town Council to combine the two parish wards and create one electoral area and to request that the number of councillors be increased by two from eleven to thirteen.

16. Publication of the Audited Statement of Accounts

Mr. Steve Heath, Finance Manager, addressed the panel to present the report, explaining that this was the third of three reports relating to the Statement of Accounts. Mr. Heath said the auditing of the accounts is formally closed and the publication completed in accordance with the statutory deadlines.

Councillor Manning said he would be happy in the future to receive an electronic copy

of the full accounts, and requested that in an effort to reduce printing costs, all future hard copies are produced without a glossy finish.

Councillor Arnold, an erstwhile champion of reducing the reliance on paper, said the Council should go down the route of reducing the future number of paper copies of the full accounts.

Mr. Heath said the Audit Commission had confirmed that they are happy for the Council to go down the electronic route. There was however a need to consider accessibility matters, and hard copies would still need to be provided for public areas. Mr. Heath said this could provide some savings, however the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards will mean that the document will be larger and this will increase the cost of each copy.

Councillor Manning proposed that the Committee agree that in future years, where possible, recipients of the full accounts would receive them electronically, with hard copies provided to Council offices, libraries and Parish Council offices. Councillor Arnold said it is not difficult to print off on demand, and as a minimum requirement, Councillor Manning's proposal was acceptable.

RESOLVED that the Committee;

- i) Noted the publication of the audited Statement of Accounts for 2009/10.
- ii) Agreed that members would in future receive an electronic version of the audited Statement of Accounts. Members also agreed that hard copies of the full accounts should continue to be made available to the public at Council offices, Libraries and Parish Council offices, but every effort should be made to provide an electronic version of the full accounts to all other current recipients.