

# ACCOUNTS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

## 18 OCTOBER 2011

*Present :-* Councillor Will Quince (Chairman)  
Councillors Annie Feltham, Scott Greenhill,  
Pauline Hazell, Justin Knight, Michael Lilley,  
Jon Manning and Gerard Oxford

*Substitute Members :-* Councillor Ray Gamble for Councillor Mark Cory  
Councillor Dennis Willetts for Councillor Sue Lissimore

*Also in Attendance :-* Councillor Beverley Oxford  
Councillor Paul Smith  
Councillor Colin Sykes  
Councillor Laura Sykes

### 12. Minutes

*RESOLVED* that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2011 was confirmed as a correct record.

### 13. Publication of the Audited Statement of Accounts

Mr. Heath, Finance Manager asked the Committee to note the publication of the audited Statement of Accounts for 2010-11 that was published by the statutory deadline of 30 September 2011. Publication was for the first year only completed electronically, thereby providing a total printing cost saving (on hard copy) of £3,500. Notification of the publication was published in the local press on Friday 7 October 2011.

*RESOLVED* that the Committee noted the publication of the audited Statement of Accounts.

### 14. Proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places

Mrs. Sarah Cheek, Electoral Services Manager presented the report on the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places, that under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 had to be completed within four years of the initial review, in this case, the 31 December 2011.

The 30 day consultation period commenced on 1 August 2011, seeking representations from the Returning Officer, people with an expertise in disability access and any electors in the constituency. Mrs. Cheek later confirmed to Councillor Hazell that the consultation is open for comment by all local residents affected by the review.

As a result of the consultation, Members were made aware of the responses as noted in appendix A of the report, and the proposed changes for both Polling Districts and Polling Places as noted in appendix B. The Committee was informed that the

comments from Councillors in the Lexden Ward, happy with the proposed arrangements, had been omitted from the Appendix A. Mrs. Cheek said this and other comments omitted from the table within the report would for completeness, be added to the final table.

The changes included Polling District boundary changes in nine wards, Berechurch, Castle, Christchurch, Marks Tey, New Town, Prettygate, St Andrews, St Johns and Wivenhoe Quay, and one Polling Place change in the Copford and West Stanway Ward.

Councillor Paul Smith, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Heritage and Councillor Quince thanked Mrs. Cheek and other officers who contributed to the work culminating in the final report.

Councillor Manning was pleased with the new arrangements in Wivenhoe, but felt available office accommodation in Hawkins Road should be considered as a polling station to reduce the distance residents in the Hawkins Road area would need to walk to vote, currently the Forest Road meeting room. Mrs. Cheek said there was no reason why this suggestion should not be considered and she would follow-up on this request.

In response to Councillor Manning's enquiry on the expected savings from this review, Mrs. Cheek said the cost of each station varies dependent on the number of staff, the size of the premises and stationary costs, but averaged between £500 - £900. The number of stations will be reduced by nine.

*RESOLVED* that the Committee considered and agreed the proposed changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places, to be notified for approval by Full Council on Wednesday 19 October 2011.

**Councillor Colin Sykes (in respect of Chairman of Stanway Parish Council) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)**

**15. Recommendation for Community Governance Review - Stanway Parish Council**

Mrs. Cheek presented the report on the Community Governance Review request by Stanway Parish Council to combine the two parish wards and create one electoral area.

Mrs. Cheek said following the initial consultation, the draft proposals were made available for further comment from 5 July 2011, with one further representation in favour of the proposal.

Councillor Colin Sykes addressed the Committee to explain that the report was recommending that approval be given to the request from Stanway Parish Council to combine the two parish wards and create one electoral area, and Councillor Sykes asked the Committee to agree to this recommendation.

Councillor Manning said a similarly approved change in arrangements at Wivenhoe had worked very well, and suggested the Committee approve the recommendation.

*RESOLVED* that the Committee agreed to approve the request from Stanway Parish Council to combine the two parish wards and create one electoral area.