

Minute

Special General Meeting of the Council

Thursday, 20 February 2020, 10:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors J Harvey Johnston, Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, Robin W Crichton, David Dawson, Andrew Drever, Barbara Foulkes, Steven B Heddle, Rachael A King, W Leslie Manson, John T Richards, Stephen Sankey, John A R Scott, Gwenda M Shearer, Graham L Sinclair, James W Stockan, Owen Tierney, Duncan A Tullock and Kevin F Woodbridge.

Clerk

- John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive.

In Attendance

- Gavin Barr, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.
- Gillian Morrison, Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- Sally Shaw, Chief Officer/Executive Director, Orkney Health and Care.
- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Gareth Waterson, Head of Finance.
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services.
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

Apology

- Councillor Norman R Craigie.

Not Present

- Councillor Magnus O Thomson.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor J Harvey Johnston, Convener.

1. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, together with an Equality Impact Assessment, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Finance, the Council:

Noted:

1.1. That the Representation of the People Act 1983 placed a duty on the local authority to regularly review its UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places.

1.2. That the last review of polling districts and polling places for Orkney was completed in October 2013.

1.3. That the most recent compulsory review, which required to be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020, included consultation with the following:

- The general public.
- Elected Members.
- The Member of Parliament.
- The Member of the Scottish Parliament.
- The European Parliament Liaison Office.
- Community Councils.
- Orkney Access Panel.
- Orkney Disability Forum.
- Voluntary Action Orkney.

1.4. That five representations were received from organisations or individuals, with a full breakdown of those comments attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive.

1.5. That, in response to specific issues raised during the election events prior to the compulsory review, the consultation proposed that changes be made to Evie and Rendall and Orphir Polling Places.

1.6. That feedback from the current review concluded that the electorate were generally happy with the existing arrangements and facilities for voting, with no objections received in respect of the proposed changes to Evie and Rendall and Orphir Polling Places.

The Council resolved:

1.7. That the Evie Church should be the new Evie and Rendall Polling Place, as the facility provided full access and parking facilities for the electorate without disruption to Evie Community School.

1.8. That the Orphir Church should be the new Orphir Polling Place, as the facility provided full access and parking facilities for the electorate without disruption to Orphir Community School.

2. Conclusion of Meeting

At 10:40 the Convener declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Harvey Johnston.