

## **Request to change the name of Barwick Parish Council**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

To report the receipt of a request (under the provisions of Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972) from Barwick Parish Council to change the name of the Parish Council to Barwick and Stoford Parish Council.

### **Public Interest**

A request has been received from Barwick Parish Council requesting that the District Council agree to support their change of name to Barwick and Stoford Parish Council to reflect the two villages within the parish. This report asks for the authorisation of Council to make an order to carry out that request.

Similar requests during the last 4 years to alter parish boundaries and increase the number of Parish Councillors have been dealt with by Community Governance Reviews under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007, however, a change of Parish Council name on its own can still be dealt with under Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972. No other changes to the Parish Council arrangements are proposed.

### **Recommendations**

The Council is recommended to:

1. Note the receipt of the request from Barwick Parish Council to change their name;
2. Agree to the making and publication of an order under Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 to change the name of Barwick Parish Council to Barwick and Stoford Parish Council.

### **The Local Government Act 1972**

Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 states:-

- (1) At the request of the parish council or, where there is no parish council, at the request of the parish meeting, the council of the district in which the parish is situated may change the name of the parish.
- (2) Notice of any change of name made under this section—
  - (a) shall be sent by the district council concerned to the Secretary of State, to the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and to the Registrar General; and
  - (b) shall be published by the district council in the parish and elsewhere in such manner as they consider appropriate.
- (3) A change of name made in pursuance of this section shall not affect any rights or obligations of any parish or of any council, authority or person, or render defective any

legal proceedings; and any legal proceedings may be commenced or continued as if there had been no change of name.

## **Request from Barwick Parish Council**

In 2017, Barwick Parish Council originally requested a Community Governance Review to increase the size of the Parish Council from 10 to 12 Councillors and to change the name of Barwick Parish Council to Barwick and Stoford Parish Council. This request was accepted by SSDC in October 2017 and the initial public consultation period was due to start in January 2018. However, The Parish Council have now re-considered their original decision and have withdrawn the request to increase the size of the Parish Council from 10 to 12 Councillors. They have indicated that they only wish to proceed with the change of Parish Council name. In this instance, there is no need to continue with the Community Governance Review as a change in Parish Council name can be effected by the making and publication of an order under Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972

In their request, the Parish Council state that it would be more equitable and fairer if the Council changed its name to “Barwick and Stoford Parish Council” as the Parish is made up of both villages of Barwick and Stoford, and they would be better represented by the revised name. No other changes to the Parish Council arrangements are proposed.

Barwick Parish Council has put forward a reasoned request for the change in name and in the light of the reasons put forward by the Parish Council, officers consider that the request should be agreed.

## **Financial Implications**

The making and publication of an order under Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 will be in employee time only. Local publication will be via the SSDC website, posters in the village and an article in the village newsletter.

## **Corporate Priority Implications**

Working with partners to improve services, efficiencies, resilience and influence.

## **Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

No implications at the current time.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The Parish Council in making their request have taken account of the views of the local government electors within the parishes of Barwick and Stoford. Their request reflects the identities and interests of the community whilst making no changes to the governance arrangements for the area.

## **Background Papers**

Local Government Act 1972

Request from Barwick Parish Council dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018