

# REGULATORY AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

**26 NOVEMBER 2019**

## **PRESENT:**

Councillors B Yeates (Chairman), Anketell, Binney, Eagland, D Ennis, L Ennis, Evans, Leytham, Salter, Spruce and Warfield

## **13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Parton-Hughes

## **14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor L Ennis declared a personal interest in item 4 as she works at a school that is a Polling Station and her children attend a school that is a polling station.

Councillor D Ennis declared a personal interest in item 4 as his children attend a school that is also a polling station

Councillor Evans declared a personal interest in Item 4 as she is the Chair of Governors at for a school that is a polling station

Councillor Ankertell declared a personal interest in item as he is a volunteer at a school that is a Polling Station.

Councillor Salter declared a personal interest in item 4 as he is a Trustee of a premises that is a Polling Station.

Councillor B. Yeates declared a personal interest in item 4 as he is Chairman of a management committee for a premises that is a Polling Station.

## **15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a correct record.

## **16 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The Committee received a report on the review of polling districts and polling places following a consultation. It was reported that this consultation started after the item was initially considered by the Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019. It was noted that 203 responses had been received and this high rate was most likely due to the ease of being online. It was also noted that many of the responses were from parents and mostly from The Willows Primary School and St Michaels Primary School.

The Director of Transformation and Resources, Mr Neil Turner, then presented the recommendations to the Committee and reported that the priorities were to reduce the number of mobile units used as polling stations as they are not easily accessible for some voters and the second priority was to reduce the number of schools used where possible.

It was reported that it was proposed to split the polling place at St Michael's Primary School between that location and Five Spires Academy and St Joseph's on a rota basis to take the pressure off just the one school to be the polling place every election. The Committee agreed

with this suggestion and felt it to be fair. The Committee noted that there was not a requirement for schools to close on polling days however understood the potential safeguarding concerns. Members requested that where schools were used, the Council reached out to offer what help they could to allow the schools to remain open.

The Committee then discussed the proposal to consider further the moving of the polling place at Robinson Road, Burntwood as using Redwood Park would not be appropriate as there are lighting and other issues including steep access. It was suggested that Boney Hay Working Men's Club be considered as an alternative.

There were concerns with the recommendation to move the polling place from Chase Terrace primary School to Burntwood Library as this would take it out of the ward area and County Boundary. There were also concerns that parking was not ideal at the library. It was noted there were no requirement for polling places to be in the ward as long as it was accessible for voters in that area. It was agreed that alternative suggestions should be investigated or for the polling station to remain where it currently is.

Other suggestions were made including moving the polling place at Fulfun Primary School to Burntwood Memorial Institute and moving Highfields Primary School to the Scouts Hut. It was noted that these would be investigated before the item was considered at Council.

It was requested that if Holly Grove School remained as a station, that the rear gate is opened to aid access especially for the elderly.

When asked, it was confirmed that the Returning Officer had powers to move a polling place urgently if it was found a venue was unavailable especially if a snap election.

**RESOLVED:** That Council be recommended to approve the following changes to Polling Places

- (1) Move the polling place from the Co-op Superstore car park to Boley Park Community Centre and environs.
- (2) Move the polling place from The Willows Primary School to Curborough Community Centre subject to approval by the Centre.
- (3) Move the polling place at St Micheal's Primary School to the three primary schools – St Michael's, Five Spires Academy and St Joseph's – and define the polling places as Cherry Orchard schools.
- (4) Move the polling place at SS Peter's and Paul's Primary School and incorporate within the polling place at Chadsmead Primary Academy.
- (5) Move the polling place at Bexmore Drive, Streethay to Streethay Primary Academy.
- (6) Move the polling place at the Longwood Public House, Fazeley and incorporate within the polling place at Fazeley Town Hall.
- (7) Move the polling place at The Highwayman Public House, Shenstone Wood End and incorporate within the polling place at Shenstone Village Hall.
- (8) Move the polling place at SS Joseph's and Theresa's to The Old Mining College.
- (9) Move the polling place at Oakdene Road island to the area youth centre for polling district CM and to Springhill Academy for polling district CS2.

(10) Move the polling place at Holly Grove Primary School to St John's Community Church and if this is not possible, ensure the rear gate is open for voters.

## 17 REGISTRATION OF SKIN TREATMENTS POLICY

The Committee received a report on the recent consultation to the draft Special Treatments Policy and seeking approval for submission to Council for adoption.

It was reported that there was legislation covering this type of treatments as well as Council By-laws and this policy brought it all into one document.

It was reported that one response was received requesting change in wording to the definition of Electrolysis. It was also advised that Environmental Health Officers had clarified some of the wording which had been incorporated into the draft strategy.

Members asked if it was a requirement to have personal liability insurance and it was reported that this would be checked. It was agreed that if this should be a requirement for registration, this would be looked into and the policy be amended to reflect this.

It was then asked whether DBS checks were carried out as part of the registration process and it was reported that this would be verified however if it was not in legislation to require it, it could not be enforced.

It was confirmed that the fees for registration covered all cost incurred by the Council to carry out this function.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the new Special Treatments Policy be approved for submission to Council for adoption;

(2) That the requirement to have public liability be included if found to be necessary; and

(3) That the Chairman of Regulatory & Licensing Committee together with the Head of Regulatory Services, Housing and Wellbeing be delegated to make minor amendments to the Policy.

## 18 THANKS TO THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Committee wished to thank the Director of Transformation and Resources, Mr Neil Turner, who would be leaving the Authority at the end of the year for all his work and guidance and wished him well for the future.

(The Meeting closed at 6.40 pm)

CHAIRMAN