

# NOTICE OF MEETING

**Meeting:** GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

**Date and Time:** FRIDAY, 8 JUNE 2018, AT 9.30 AM\*

**Place:** COUNCIL CHAMBER, APPLETREE COURT,  
LYNDHURST

**Telephone enquiries to:** Lyndhurst (023) 8028 5000  
023 8028 5588 - ask for Karen Wardle  
Email: karen.wardle@nfdc.gov.uk

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

\*Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Committee's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
  - (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item.
- Speeches may not exceed three minutes. Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above.

**Bob Jackson**  
Chief Executive

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. SO43 7PA  
[www.newforest.gov.uk](http://www.newforest.gov.uk)

**This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format**

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# AGENDA

## **Apologies**

### **1. MINUTES**

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 9 March and 14 May 2018 as a correct record.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

**4. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL**  
(Pages 1 - 6)

To consider a Community Governance Review of the warding arrangements for Netley Marsh Parish Council.

**5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

To: **Councillors**

S J Clarke (Chairman)  
L R Puttock (Vice-Chairman)  
G C Beck  
G R Blunden  
S P Davies  
Ms L C Ford  
R L Frampton  
A T Glass

**Councillors**

L E Harris  
Mrs P Jackman  
J M Olliff-Cooper  
D N Tungate  
A S Wade  
J G Ward  
Mrs P A Wyeth

## GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE – 8 JUNE 2018

### COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Netley Marsh Parish Council comprises two wards, Netley Marsh North and Netley Marsh South. These are shown on the map attached at Appendix 1. The Parish Council has requested that the two parish wards be discontinued.

1.2 There are currently 1,722 electors in Netley Marsh, with 7 Parish Councillors:

Ward	Electorate	No. of Councillors
Netley Marsh North	322	1
Netley Marsh South	1,400	6

#### 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the Act”) sets out the requirements and procedure for changing the electoral arrangements of parish and town councils. The Act enables a District Council to change a parish’s warding arrangements by order, but only after undertaking a “community governance review” (“CGR”). A CGR involves a number of stages, from setting the terms of reference for the review, consulting with local people, considering representations, deciding on the outcome, and, if changes are agreed, to making a formal order to bring those changes into effect.

2.2 When undertaking a review, the District Council must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission. However, subject to that, it is for the Council to decide how to undertake a review.

#### 3. PARISH COUNCIL’S REQUEST

3.1 Netley Marsh is a relatively small parish, both geographically and in population terms. It is unusual for a Parish of this size to be warded. The reasons why the parish was warded originally are uncertain but it appears that the decision to create two wards arose from a change in the boundary between Test Valley Borough Council and New Forest District Council. It is clear that the two wards have been in existence since at least 1992.

3.2 Netley Marsh Parish Council considers the two wards unnecessary and, indeed, that they cause some confusion to residents. There are additional administrative and cost implications arising from two wards, for example, when conducting elections – separate notices, ballot papers, poll cards, etc., have to be prepared.

#### **4. ISSUES TO CONSIDER**

- 4.1 To comply with the Government's guidance, the primary issue in considering the Parish Council's request will be whether the request will result in "effective and convenient local government". A further important consideration is that community governance in the area reflects the interests and identities of the community.
- 4.2 In the case of Netley Marsh Parish, officers are of the view that discontinuing the two wards would indeed result in "effective and convenient local government". The community's understanding of the parish council and who represents them is likely to improve if the two wards are merged. In addition, when considering previous requests for CGRs, the Committee has generally taken the view that the Parish Council is best placed to judge the warding arrangements most suited to them.
- 4.3 Initial consultation with the local community was undertaken through the medium of a local newsletter 'The Outlook' (See Appendix 2). No responses were received.
- 4.4 If the Committee agrees to conduct a review, it should agree terms of reference for the proposed review. The following simple terms of reference would be appropriate and it is suggested that they be adopted.

'In response to a request from Netley Marsh Parish Council, to review the current warding arrangements for the Parish with a view to determining whether the current two wards of the Parish Council should be discontinued.'

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Resources involved in undertaking the review will be mainly employee time. Further consultation with residents will be via the Parish Council's and the District Council's websites and/or the local newsletter, and should not incur direct costs.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

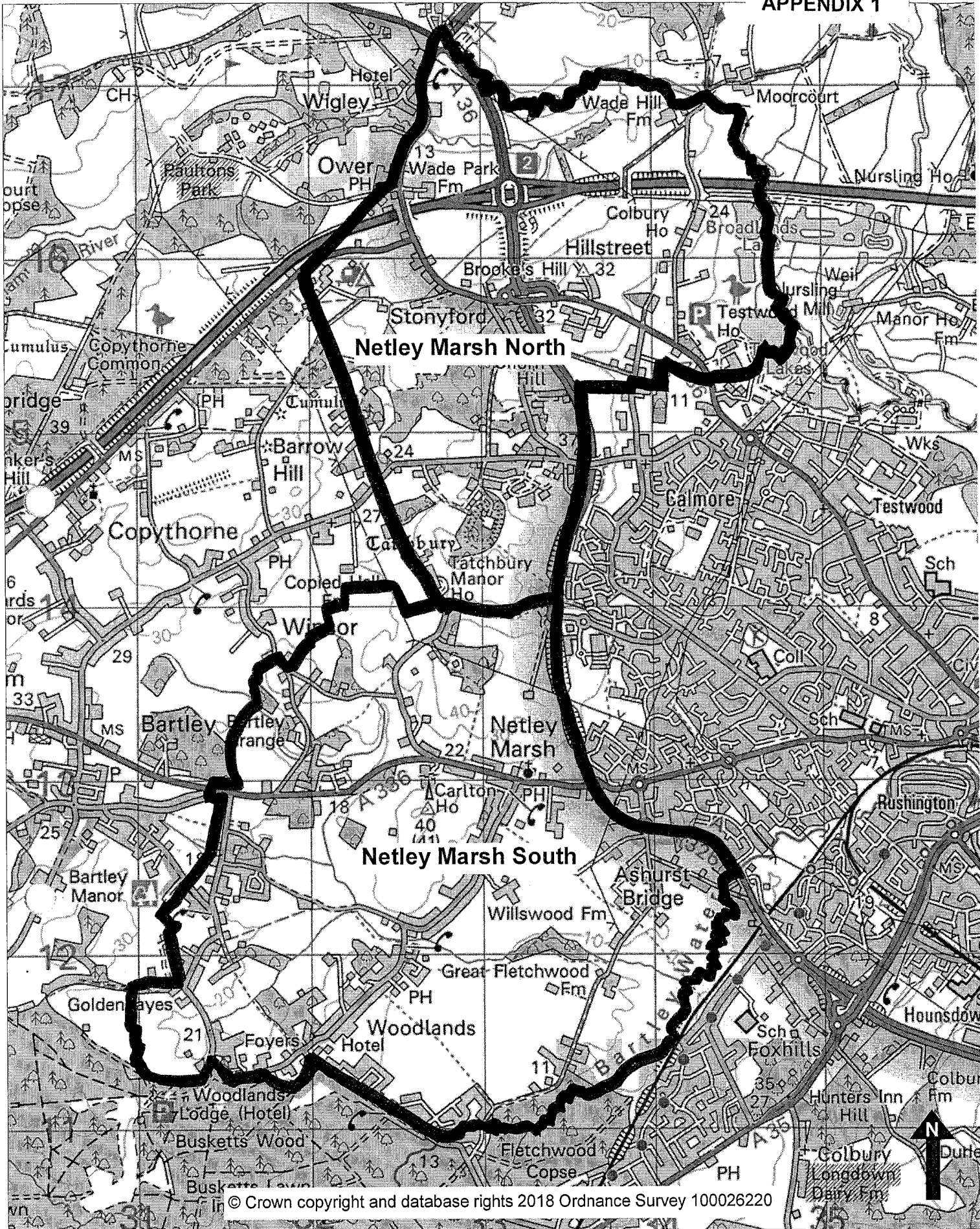
- 6.1 There are none.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 That a Community Governance Review be undertaken in Netley Marsh with a view to discontinuing the two wards of the Parish Council.
- 7.2 That the terms of reference for the review be as set out in paragraph 4.4.

**Further information:**  
Rosemary Rutins  
Service Manager – Democratic Services &  
Member Support  
Tel: 023 8028 5588  
Email: [rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**  
Request from Netley Marsh Parish Council  
dated 22 June 2015



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**New Forest**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tel: 023 8028 5000 [www.newforest.gov.uk](http://www.newforest.gov.uk)

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## SHOULD THE TWO WARDS OF NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL BE DISCONTINUED?

Netley Marsh Parish Council is divided into two wards for electoral purposes – Netley Marsh North and Netley Marsh South. The two wards are shown on the map below. Netley Marsh North has 324 electors, and Netley Marsh South 1,384.

It is unusual for a relatively small parish like Netley Marsh to be divided into wards, and the Parish Council has requested that the warding arrangements be abolished. One Parish Councillor represents the residents of Netley Marsh North Ward and six represent those living within Netley Marsh South.

New Forest District Council has power to change a Parish Council's electoral areas after following certain statutory requirements, which include consulting local residents who are eligible to vote. This article is the first stage of consulting local residents on the request to discontinue the two wards of the Parish Council. There will be further consultation as the process moves forward.

If the Parish Council's request is agreed, all seven Parish Councillors will represent the whole of the Parish. The new arrangements would come into effect at the next ordinary election of Councillors in May 2019.

### Tell us what you think:

Please send your views on the proposed change by e-mail or letter to arrive by not later than Monday 16 April 2018 to:

[rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk)

Rosemary Rutins  
New Forest District Council  
Appletree Court  
Beaulieu Road  
Lyndhurst  
SO43 7PA

Telephone: (023) 8028 5588 (ask for Rosemary Rutins)

### Next steps:

If, after considering the responses to this consultation, the District Council decides to move to the next stage of the statutory process, the District Council's proposals will be published and further views invited.

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