

AGENDA

GENERAL PURPOSES GROUP MEETING



Date: Friday 24 October 2014

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Town Hall, High Street,
Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Mrs Gooch, Mrs Hinder, Parvin
(Chairman), Mrs Parvin, Vizzard (Vice-
Chairman) and Watson

Page No.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Notification of Visiting Members
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers
5. Disclosures of Lobbying

Continued Over/:

Issued on 16 October 2014

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**Alison Broom, Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council,
Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ**

6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information
7. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2014 1 - 3
8. Appointment of Political Group Spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats
9. Report of the Head of Finance and Resources - Broomfield & Kingswood and Sutton Valence Parish Councils Increase Number of Councillors 4 - 23
10. Report of the Head of Finance and Resources - Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 24 - 40

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2014

Present: Councillors English, Mrs Gooch, Parvin, Mrs Parvin
and Paterson

Also Present:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Vizzard.

2. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that Councillor Paterson was substituting for Councillor Vizzard.

3. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

There were no Visiting Members.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Parvin be elected as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Vizzard be elected as Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

6. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members or Officers.

7. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

8. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: That the items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

9. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

10. APPOINTMENT OF POLITICAL GROUP SPOKESPERSONS

RESOLVED: That the following Group Spokespersons be appointed for the Municipal Year 2014/15:-

Conservative – Councillor Parvin

Liberal Democrat – Councillor English

Independent – Councillor Mrs Gooch

11. NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Group considered the report of the Head of Policy and Communication regarding nominations to outside bodies, and the insurance arrangements for Members appointed to Not for Profit Organisations.

It was noted that the position on the Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee was taken automatically by the Chair of the Mid Kent Downs Steering Group and therefore an appointment was not required.

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor English be appointed as the Council's representative on the Town Centre Management Board.
2. That Councillor Round be appointed as the Council's representative, and Councillor Mrs Wilson be appointed as the Council's High Street Ward Member representative, on the Town Centre management Liaison Group, and that further nominations be sought for the remaining vacancy.
3. That Councillor D Mortimer be appointed as the Council's representative on the Maidstone YMCA, and that further nominations be sought for the remaining vacancy.
4. That Councillor Mrs Parvin be appointed as the Council's representative on the Mid Kent Downs Steering Group, with Councillor Ash as substitute member.
5. That Councillor Round be appointed as the Council's representative on the K.C.C Youth Advisory Group.
6. That Councillor Round be appointed as the Council's representative on Action with Communities in Rural Kent, and that further nominations be sought for the remaining vacancy.
7. That Councillor's Harper and Paterson be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Maidstone Area Arts Partnership.

8. That Councillor Harper be appointed as the Council's representative on the Youth and Community Charity.
9. That Councillor Naghi be appointed as the Council's representative on the Kent County Playing Fields Association.
10. That Councillors Ash, Mrs Hinder and Vizzard be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Maidstone/Beauvais Twinning Association, and that further nominations be sought for the remaining vacancy.
11. That Councillors Parvin and Round be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board.
12. That it be noted that the Leader of the Council will continue as the Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel.
13. That it be noted that the Leader of the Council will continue as the Council's representative on the West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.
14. That it be noted that no other nominations have been received for the other vacancies, and that further nominations be sought for these.
15. That the action being taken by Officers in regard to Members' insurance cover whilst representing the Council on outside bodies be noted.

12. DURATION OF MEETING

10.30 a.m. to 11.05 a.m.

Agenda Item 9

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES GROUP

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF HEAD OF FINANCE & RESOURCES

Report prepared by Kathy Hildige

1. BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD AND SUTTON VALENCE PARISH COUNCILS INCREASE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

1.1 Issue for Decision

1.1.1 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIH Act 2007) s94 the Council has received requests to consider an increase in the number of parish councillors on Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council and on Sutton Valence Parish Council.

1.2 Recommendation of Head of Finance & Resources

1.2.1 That the General Purposes Group recommend to Council that, in accordance with the adopted scale, the request of both Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council and Sutton Valence Parish Council for increases from nine councillors to eleven councillors be refused.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 The LGPIH Act 2007 provides the Council with the power to take decisions in relation to the electoral arrangements of parishes. Since February 2008 the Council has had responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews and considering the electoral arrangements of an existing or proposed parish. Consideration of the electoral arrangements includes:

- a) The ordinary year of election;
- b) The number of councillors to be elected; and
- c) The need to divide a parish into wards.

1.3.2 Two parish councils, Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council and Sutton Valence Parish Council, have requested that the Council consider increasing the number of councillors on their respective councils from nine to eleven.

1.3.3 In submitting their requests the parish councils have provided the following commentaries for the Council to consider:

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

Parish Councillors feel that the workload (listed below) is ever increasing and as volunteers, most of whom in full time occupations, it would be beneficial to spread the load and to ensure that quorums are achievable.

- Preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the past 2.5 years creating copious correspondence and meetings with both the residents, the consultants and Maidstone Borough Council. Still ongoing;
- Correspondence and meetings with KCC re Road signs;
- Correspondence and meetings with MBC re local cleaning issues;
- Correspondence and meetings with KCC re Salt bins;
- Correspondence and meetings with both Orbit and MBC re the mismanagement of affordable housing;
- Correspondence Liaising with Village Hall and meetings with both Orbit and Police re Anti-social issues;
- Dealing with Planning applications;
- Meetings with residents re: illegal occupations;
- Running the Parish Website;
- Attending Finance and General Purpose Meetings;
- Attending various joint parish group meetings re general issues affecting all Parishes;
- Dealing with issues relating to Sports field and safety;
- Looking after issues arising during staff holidays.

Sutton Valence Parish Council

The work load of a Parish Council has increased significantly in the past few years. Sutton Valence Parish Council in particular is an

active Council with two allotment sites, two play areas, football pitches, toilet and areas of open space which it is responsible for. More Councillors would spread the load.

1.4 Considerations

1.4.1 The Local Government Boundaries Commission for England (LGBCE), the National Association of Local Councils and the Government all suggest that consideration should be given to the fact that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors and local councils can find it difficult to attract appropriate numbers and appropriate quality candidates. They also suggest that consideration should be given to any unique local factors.

1.4.2 **Appendix A** to this report details the three most recent election results in each parish showing a high level of uncontested election. It also provides a map of the parish boundaries evidencing the size and character of the areas covered by the parish councils concerned.

1.4.3 The LGBCE has suggested the number of parish councillors should be commensurate with electorate size. The Council has previously considered the issue of size of a parish council (the number of parish councillors to be elected) and has adopted a scale for determining the ratio between electors and the number of parish councillors. The scale is set out below:

Up to 250 electors	5 Councillors
251-700 electors	7 Councillors
701-1350 electors	9 Councillors
1351-2200 electors	11 Councillors
2201-3250 electors	13 Councillors
3251-4500 electors	15 Councillors
Over 4500 electors	At the discretion of the Council

1.4.4 The range of sizes identified across the country by the LGBCE would suggest that the Council's scale is within suitable limits.

1.4.5 Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council has 1,250 electors and Sutton Valence has 1,083 electors. Comparison of both parishes with the adopted scale suggests that both parish councils currently have the appropriate number of councillors, which is nine each.

1.4.6 Should the General Purposes Group or Council still wish to consider the requests favourably this would lead to the need for a community governance review and consultation under s82 of the LGPIH Act 2007. The terms of reference of such a review are set out in draft for each Parish Council in **Appendix B** and **Appendix C**. If changes arise from the reviews it would be necessary to incorporate the changes before

the election in May 2015 and for that reason it would be essential that any such review commenced in December 2014.

1.4.7 In relation to the commentary from the parish councils it is clear that the parishes firmly believe that the workload of the individual councillors is a significant burden however the duties are standard duties expected of parish councils and the scale has been set by Council after consideration of those duties.

1.4.8 The officer recommendation to General Purposes Group is that it recommends to Council that the requests be declined on the basis that they are outside of the adopted scale.

1.5 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.5.1 The group could chose to recommend the Council complete the necessary community governance review that would be required to increase the number of parish councillors in each parish. This is contrary to the adopted scale and would require a formal justification to be presented to Council along with the recommendation.

1.6 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.6.1 The decision does not directly impact on corporate objectives.

1.7 Risk Management

1.7.1 The parish councils perceive that there is a risk that the current committee cannot service the needs of the parish however the current electorate levels suggest that they both meet the standards set by national organisations.

1.8 Other Implications

- 1. Financial
- 2. Staffing
- 3. Legal
- 4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment
- 5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
- 6. Community Safety
- 7. Human Rights Act

- 8. Procurement
- 9. Asset Management

1.9 Relevant Documents

1.9.1 Appendices

Appendix A – Terms of Reference – Broomfield & Kingswood Parish Council

Appendix B – Terms of Reference – Sutton Valence Parish Council

Appendix C – Last three years election history and Parish Boundary Maps

1.9.2 Background Documents

None

IS THIS A KEY DECISION REPORT?

THIS BOX MUST BE COMPLETED

Yes

No

If yes, this is a Key Decision because:

.....

Wards/Parishes affected:

.....

**ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR
PARISH OF SUTTON VALENCE
MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Date of Election: THURSDAY 5 MAY 2011

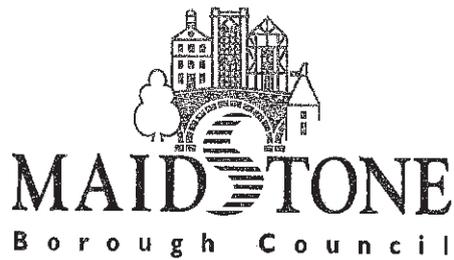
RESULT OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION

I declare the following to be elected as PARISH COUNCILLOR without a contest -

NAME OF PERSON(S) ELECTED	HOME ADDRESS
Barry John ARMSTRONG	Cheyne House, Broad Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3AJ
Peter GREEN	Acorn House, 12 The Platt, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3BQ
Roger Howard PEVERETT	The Old Bakery, Broad Street, Sutton Valence, Kent, ME17 3AJ
Eileen Margaret RIDEN	Oakdene Cottage, Maidstone Road, Sutton Valence, Kent, ME17 3LS
Ian Michael ROBINSON	Braemar Oak, Headcorn Road, Sutton Valence, Kent, ME17 3EH
Maurice Andrew STANCOMBE	The Firs, Chartway Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3JA
Phil TAYLOR	9 The Platt, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3BQ

Dated Friday 8 April 2011

Alison Broom
RETURNING OFFICER



**ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS
SUTTON VALENCE PARISH**

Date of Election: THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2003

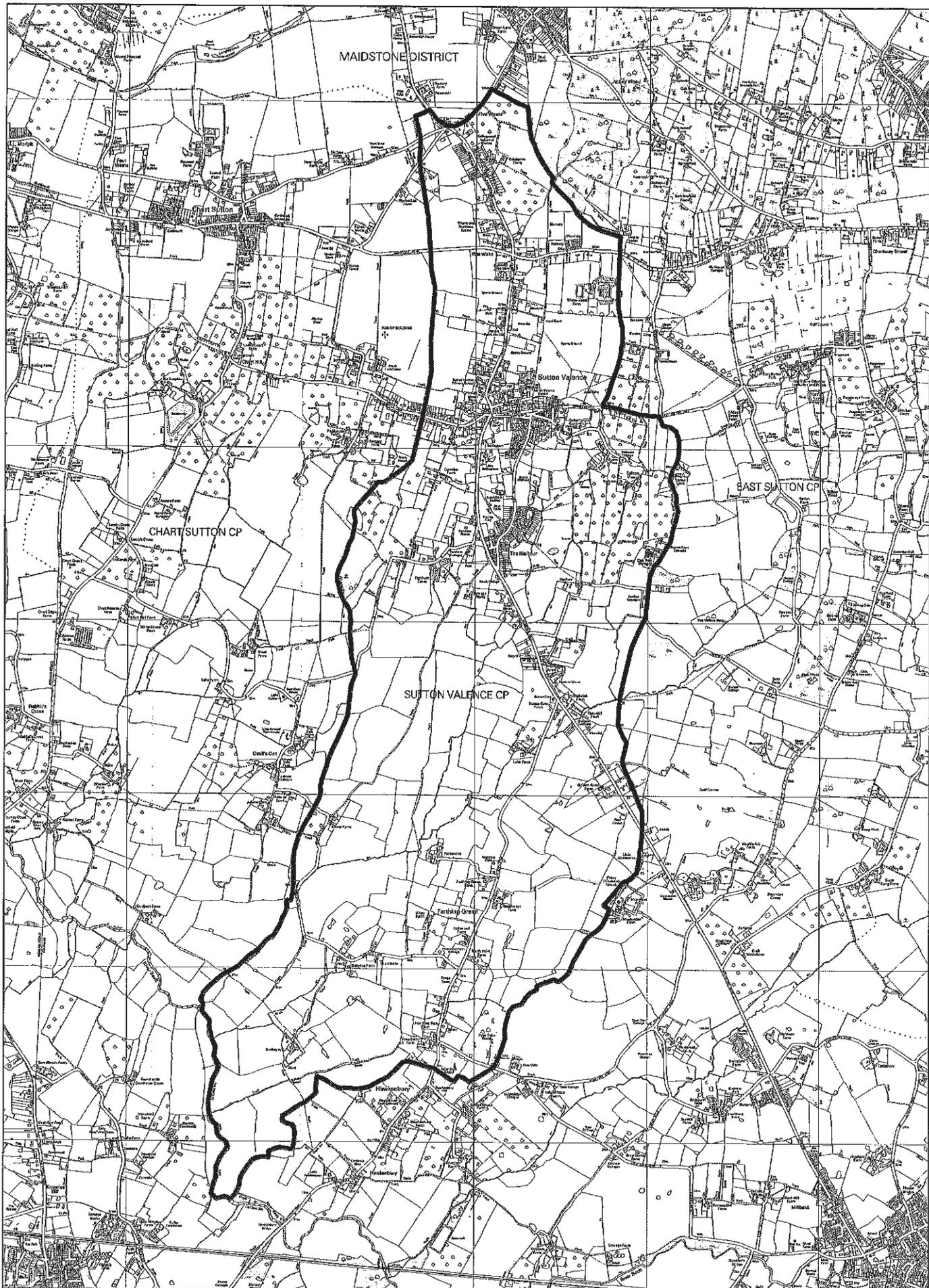
RESULT OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION

I declare the following to be elected as PARISH COUNCILLORS without a contest -

NAME OF PERSON(S) ELECTED		HOME ADDRESS
Ashby	Richard Martyn Rathbone	Manor Farm Sutton Valence Maidstone Kent ME17 3AW
Davies	Lyndon Andrew	Old Butchers Shop Broad Street Sutton Valence Maidstone, Kent ME17 3AJ
Green	Peter Ross	12 The Platt Sutton Valence Maidstone Kent ME17 3BQ
Parkinson	Christopher Francis Graves	Wells Cottage School Lane Sutton Valence Maidstone, Kent ME17 3HH
Peverett	Roger Howard	The Old Bakery Sutton Valence Kent ME17 3AJ
Riden	Eileen Margaret	Oakdene Cottage Maidstone Road Sutton Valence Kent ME17 3LS
Stancombe	Maurice Andrew	The Firs Chartway St Sutton Valence Kent ME17 3JA

Dated: Thursday 8 May 2003

RETURNING OFFICER
RICHARD SNAITH



SUTTON VALENCE PARISH



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**ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR
PARISH OF BROOMFIELD AND KINGSWOOD
MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Date of Election: THURSDAY 5 MAY 2011

RESULT OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION

I declare the following to be elected as PARISH COUNCILLOR without a contest -

NAME OF PERSON(S) ELECTED	HOME ADDRESS
Paul Ian BEANEY	12 Holly Tree Close, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3QJ
Peter David COLEMAN	Gravelly Bottom, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3NS
Vince COOPER	8 The Waldens, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3QG
Gareth DAVIES	1 Greensand Ridge, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1JY
Mike EVANS	Roses Manor Farm, Upper Street, Broomfield, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1PS
Peter George FORSTER	White Oaks, Lenham Road, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1LZ
Derek William HOBSON	14 Holly Tree Close, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3QJ
Thomas Charles HOY	Pink Cottage, Lower Street, Broomfield, Kent, ME17 1PT

Dated Friday 8 April 2011

Alison Broom
RETURNING OFFICER

**ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR
BROOMFIELD AND KINGSWOOD PARISH**

Date of Election: THURSDAY 3 MAY 2007

RESULT OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION

I declare the following to be elected as PARISH COUNCILLOR without a contest -

NAME OF PERSON(S) ELECTED		HOME ADDRESS
BOWKER	Nelson Ernest Edwin Thomas	Oak Tree Farm, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3NS
COLEMAN	Peter David	Gravelly Bottom, Gravelly Bottom Road, Kingswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3NS
EVANS	Haydn Michael	Roses Manor Farm, Broomfield, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1PS
FITZPATRICK	Maurice Melvyn	28 Ashford Drive, Kingswood, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3PA
HENDY	Beth	54 Cayser Drive, Kingswood, Kent, ME17 3QD

Dated: Tuesday 10 April 2007

David Petford
RETURNING OFFICER

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

RESULT OF POLL

DAY OF ELECTION: 1st May 2003

BROOMFIELD AND KINGSWOOD

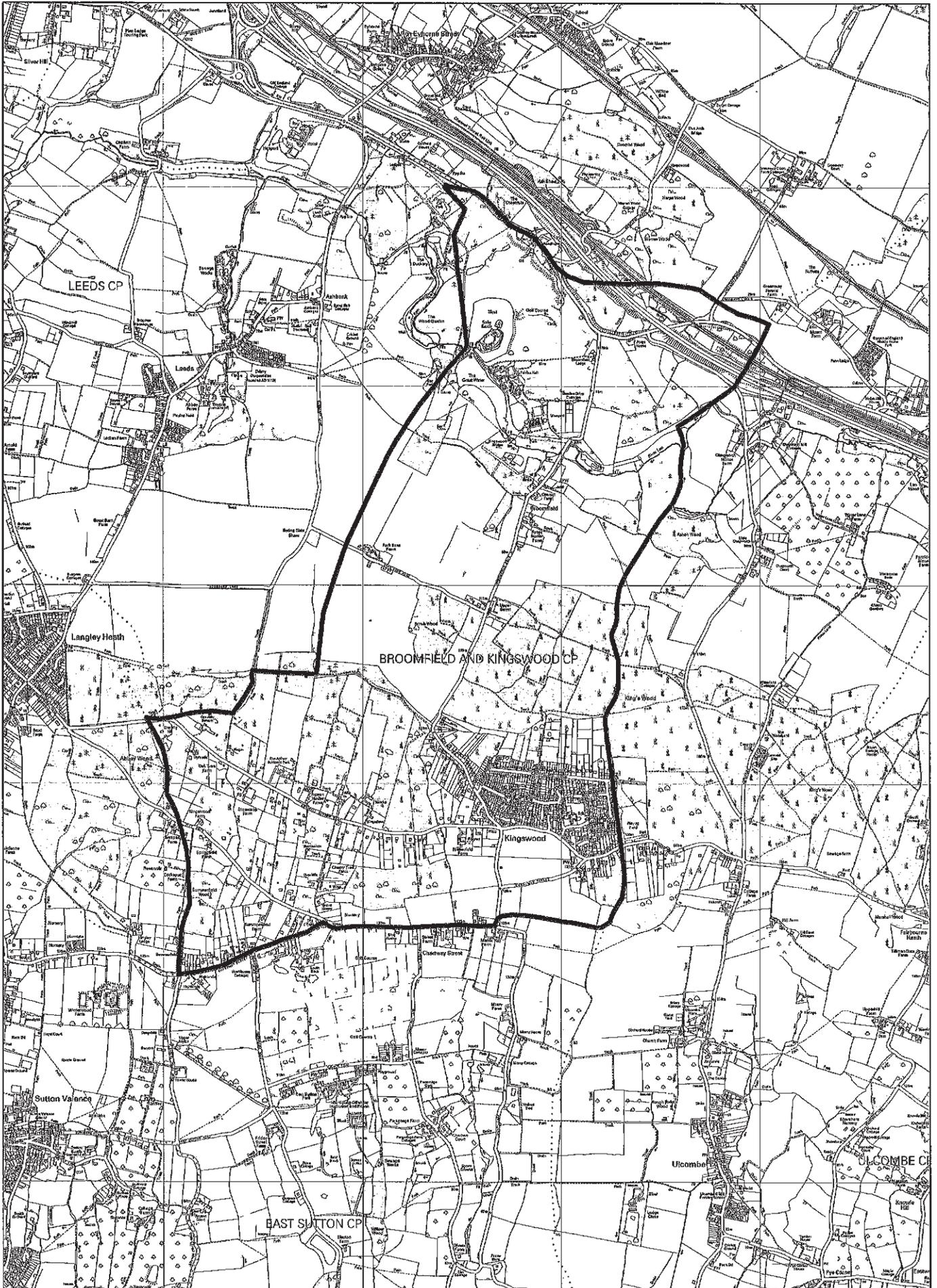
I, the UNDERSIGNED *Deputy/Returning Officer, hereby declare that those indicated below, this day, been elected Parish Councillors for the above Parish and that the total number of Votes given for each Candidate is as follows:-

NAMES OF CANDIDATES	ELECTED	NUMBER OF VOTES RECORDED
Nelson Ernest Edwin Thomas Bowker	1	265
Susan Elizabeth Clarke	6	183
Peter David Coleman	5	192
Doreen Joan Dean		124
HAYDN MICHAEL Evans	2	257
JODY CLARE Evans	7	180
Roy Gunson		123
Neil Stanley Harrison	3	251
Beth Hendy	7	180
Derek William Hobson		107
Thomas Charles Hoy		143
David William Law	9	161
Brittannia Lee		126
Patricia Mary Lyne	4	193
John Robert O'Rawe		120
Robert Schroeder		97
	TOTAL	2702

REJECTED BALLOT PAPERS	NUMBER
REASON	
(i) Want of official mark	
(ii) Voting for more candidates than entitled to	2
(iii) Writing or mark by which voter can be identified	
(iv) Unmarked or void for uncertainty	13
(v) Rejected in part	
	TOTAL
	15

Dated 1/5/2003
* Delete as appropriate

S.E. Riley
* Deputy/Returning Officer



**BROOMFIELD AND
KINGSWOOD PARISH**



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REVIEWS OF PARISHES AND RELATED MATTERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

TERMS OF REFERENCE BROOMFIELD & KINGSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL – INCREASE IN PARISH COUNCILLORS

INTRODUCTION

What is a Community Governance Review?

It is a review of the whole or part of the district / parish area to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- The grouping of parishes under a common parish council.
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and

In undertaking any Review, the Council will be guided by the following legislation:

- Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;
- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625);
- Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626)
- Relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972

The Council is required to have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (published in April 2008), together with the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission (CLCBE) for England in March 2010. The Terms of Reference of any Review will be published on the Council's website (www.maidstone.gov.uk) and will also be available to view at our reception area at the Council's main offices in The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JZ.

Parish governance in the Borough of Maidstone

The Council believes that parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at a local level, and wants to ensure that parish governance in our Borough continues to be enabled to meet the challenges that lie before it. Furthermore, it wants to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of parishes (the warding arrangements and the allocations of councillors) are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by their electorate.

Ultimately, the recommendations made in any community governance review should aim to bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and result in a more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

Why is the Council undertaking this Review?

Reviews are normally undertaken because of one or more of the following reasons:

- Changes in population
- Shifts in “natural settlements” caused by new development
- In reaction to specific or local issues which have now been raised
- In receipt of a valid petition
- In advance of a full review of the district or parish electoral arrangements
- At a request from the parish council or other interested party

In this particular review, Maidstone Borough Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of Broomfield & Kingswood Parish Council with a view to increasing the number of parish councillors from 9 to 11 as a result of a formal request from the Parish Council.

Who undertakes the Review?

The organisation of the consultations and all subsequent correspondence is undertaken by the Electoral Services team at the Borough Council. The General Purposes Committee is delegated to deal with all electoral matters and will make recommendation to full council for the final decision after the consultations have been concluded.

Consultation

The Council is now publishing this Terms of Reference document. It sets out the aims of the review, the legislation which guides it and some of the policies which the Council considers important in the review. The Council will need to take into consideration the views of the local people, together with the views of any other interested party. Local people and any other stake-holders should be aware of the outcome of decisions made and the reasons behind them. The district councils will also ask for the views of the County Council and any neighbouring parish councils.

Electoral statistics and arrangements

The parish council comprises one parish boundary and is coterminous with the borough ward boundaries and no change is requested to these.

The Council has used the Register of Electors as at 1 Sept 2014 to provide the electoral statistics. These are as follows;

Polling District	Area	Electorate as at 1 September 2014	Current no. of parish councillors
P	Broomfield and Kingswood	1250	9

Timetable

The review must be completed within twelve months of the publication of this document.

Stage	What happens	Date/Timescales
Commencement of review	Publication of terms of reference	11 December 2014
Stage 1	Consultation period. Submissions are invited.	6 weeks
Stage 2	Consideration of submissions. Draft recommendations prepared and published.	2 weeks
Stage 3	Principal Council agrees and publishes final recommendations	20 February 2015
Stage 4	Council resolves to make an Order to increase the number of parish councillors	
Order effective	Number of parish councillors increases effective from next termly parish elections	7 May 2015

REVIEWS OF PARISHES AND RELATED MATTERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

TERMS OF REFERENCE SUTTON VALENCE PARISH COUNCIL – INCREASE IN PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Why is the Council undertaking this Review?

Reviews are normally undertaken because of one or more of the following reasons:

- Changes in population
- Shifts in “natural settlements” caused by new development
- In reaction to specific or local issues which have now been raised
- In receipt of a valid petition
- In advance of a full review of the district or parish electoral arrangements
- At a request from the parish council or other interested party

In this particular review, Maidstone Borough Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of Sutton Valence Parish Council with a view to increasing the number of parish councillors from 9 to 11 as a result of a formal request from the Parish Council.

Who undertakes the Review?

The organisation of the consultations and all subsequent correspondence is undertaken by the Electoral Services team at the Borough Council. The General Purposes Committee of the Council is delegated to deal with all electoral matters and will make recommendation to full council for the final decision after the consultations have been concluded.

Consultation

The Council is now publishing this Terms of Reference document. It sets out the aims of the review, the legislation which guides it and some of the policies which the Council considers important in the review. The Council will need to take into consideration the views of the local people, together with the views of any other interested party. Local people and any other stake-holders should be aware of the outcome of decisions made and the reasons behind them. The district councils will also ask for the views of the County Council and any neighbouring parish councils.

Electoral statistics and arrangements

The parish council comprises one parish boundary and is coterminous with the borough ward boundaries and no change is requested to these.

The Council has used the Register of Electors as at 1 Sept 2014 to provide the electoral statistics. These are as follows;

Polling District	Area	Electorate as at 1 September 2014	Current no. of parish councillors
ZA, ZB	Sutton Valence	1083	9

Timetable

The review must be completed within twelve months of the publication of this document.

Stage	What happens	Date/Timescales
Commencement of review	Publication of terms of reference	11 December 2014
Stage 1	Consultation period. Submissions are invited.	6 weeks
Stage 2	Consideration of submissions. Draft recommendations prepared and published.	2 weeks
Stage 3	Principal Council agrees and publishes final recommendations	20 February 2015
Stage 4	Council resolves to make an Order to increase the number of parish councillors	
Order effective	Number of parish councillors increases effective from next termly parish elections	7 May 2015

Agenda Item 10

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES GROUP

24 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Report prepared by Elizabeth Bailey

1. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

1.1 Issue for Decision

1.1.1 Every local authority with responsibility for electoral administration must carry out a review of its polling district and polling places at least once every five years. The reviews are governed by the following legislation:

- Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013;
- Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006;
- Electoral Administration Act 2006;
- Representation of the People Act 1983 (Schedule A1)

1.1.2 This report enables the General Purposes Group to consider recommendation to Council on the results of the review recently completed by the Council, including proposals to consider alterations to the Polling Places for electors in some areas.

1.2 Recommendation of the Head of Finance and Resources

1.2.1 That the General Purposes Group recommend the following changes to Council:

- a) Bridge Ward - That the use of St Simon Stock R C Comprehensive School be discontinued. Electors in Polling District FA who currently vote at this polling station would vote at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. This polling place to become a double station.
- b) Heath Ward - That St Andrews Church Hall is re-instated as a polling station to accommodate electors outside of the former Oakwood hospital site. Electors in Polling District N will be split between the two stations. All electors to the East of Queens

Road and to the South of St Andrews Road will vote at St Andrews Church Hall.

- c) Marden and Yalding Ward, Collier Street Parish – move the polling place from St Margaret’s Church to St Margaret’s School for electors in polling district N.
- d) Harrietsham and Lenham Ward, Lenham South Parish - That St Edmunds Centre, Platts Heath becomes a polling station for use by electors in polling district LC.
- e) Headcorn Ward, Headcorn Parish –The position of the station within the polling place to change from the games room to the small restaurant.
- f) Sutton Valence and Langley Ward, Sutton Valence Parish - The position of the station within the polling place to change from the games room to the small restaurant (as proposed for Headcorn Ward in recommendation 1.2.1e above)

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 1.3.1 The Council commenced a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations on 1st October 2013. The initial stage of the review required a physical inspection of all stations and an assessment of each district and its polling stations to ensure that they remained fit for purpose.
- 1.3.2 The initial findings of that review were published on 3rd February 2014 and on that day the Council commenced a public consultation on the draft proposals in order to obtain the views of the general public, Parish Councils, County Councillors, Borough Councillors, Political Parties, MP’s, MEP’s and Disability Focus Group.
- 1.3.3 The responses to the consultation were reviewed following closure of the consultation on 7th April 2014. Commentary and any amendments were made to the draft proposals and second stage consultation with all stakeholders listed in paragraph 1.3.2 above commenced on 1st September 2014.
- 1.3.4 Second stage consultation ended on 21st October 2014 and it is now necessary to recommend the proposed changes to Council. The General Purposes Group is requested to consider the proposed changes and recommend the changes to Council. Once the recommendations have been considered by Council, agreed recommendations can be incorporated into the electoral register before its formal publication on 1st December 2014.

- 1.3.5 Within the borough there are parts of two parliamentary constituencies. These are Maidstone and the Weald constituency and Faversham and Mid-Kent constituency. All polling districts, stations and places within each were considered by the review. In the majority of cases the review has recommended no change to the current situation but has identified recommendations for change in six polling districts.
- 1.3.6 Attached at **Appendices A and B** are details of the reviews that resulted in no recommended change.
- 1.3.7 Attached at **Appendices C and D** are details of the reviews that resulted in the recommendations to change that are listed in paragraph 1.2.1.
- 1.3.8 During the public consultation on the review, carried out on two occasions, two of the proposals received comments, although they were limited in number.
- i. In relation to the proposal in Bridge Ward Councillor Pickett, a member for Bridge ward, raised concerns about access to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and recommended a number of alternatives. All alternative proposals were considered but none were suitable and the views of the Returning Officer were passed back to Councillor Pickett. In addition a questionnaire was handed to voters at St. Simon Stock School, of 415 electors only 12 comments were received, 6 disagreed with the proposal and 5 agreed. The remaining comment was a question asking for further detail.
 - ii. In relation to the proposal to use St Edmunds Centre, Platts Heath for Harrietsham and Lenham Ward the then Councillor, Mr Tom Sams, raised concerns that electors in Platts Heath may not see the proposals. He agreed to forward a copy of the notice to the hall committee and display the notice at other places within the district and in the residents' magazine. To date there has been no communication from electors within the ward.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

- 1.4.1 It is possible for the Group to decide not to make the recommendations for change to Council however the Council has completed a full review as required and has identified issues in relation to the locations where change is recommended. It would be necessary for the Group to be satisfied that to make no change or to recommend an alternative change was a suitable solution to the issues identified. Members should appreciate that a significantly different approach may require additional consultation before recommending to Council and members should note the following:

- i. In general the recommendations are made in order to improve the situation for electors or staff managing the polling stations and it would not be appropriate to chose not to act upon the identified issues.
- ii. In relation to recommendation 1.2.1a, the transfer of polling district FA from St Simon’s Stock School to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the proposal is intended to improve transport and disabled access. Where the possibility exists that electors may not be able to reach the new location or are not prepared to vote at the new location they will be able to apply for a postal or proxy vote so will not be disenfranchised.
- iii. The proposal to use St Edmunds Centre in Platts Heath is of benefit to the community who have previously raised concerns about the distance they travel to the current polling station at Lenham Community Centre. This proposal increases the number of polling stations and does not close the polling station at Lenham Community Centre for other polling districts.

1.5 Risk Management

1.5.1 The major risk would be the consequence of not acting on the recommendations arising from the review and set out in this report. All issues raised have an impact on access for the electorate and the risk of disenfranchising groups such as the disabled is greater from taking no action.

1.5.2 The new locations could present problems if electors were not sure where their polling stations were located. This will be addressed by every elector receiving a flyer attached to their poll card detailing the new arrangements and by signs placed at the old locations giving directions to the new locations.

1.6 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.6.1 The changes would assist with the smooth running of elections.

1.7 Other Implications

- 1. Financial
- 2. Staffing
- 3. Legal

X

4.	Equality Impact Needs Assessment	X
5.	Environmental/Sustainable Development	
6.	Community Safety	
7.	Human Rights Act	
8.	Procurement	
9.	Asset Management	

1.7.1 Financial – There will be a minor increase in the cost of elections arising from the proposals due to the cost of hiring an additional polling station. However the cost can be managed within the overall budget for the service.

1.7.2 EINA – The proposals will improve access to some polling stations for disabled and rural communities.

1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendices

Appendix A - Maidstone & the Weald Constituency details of reviews leading to no change.

Appendix B - Faversham and Mid Kent Constituency details of reviews leading to no change

Appendix C - Maidstone & the Weald Constituency details of reviews leading to proposals for change.

Appendix D - Faversham and Mid Kent Constituency details of reviews leading to proposals for change.

IS THIS A KEY DECISION REPORT?

THIS BOX MUST BE COMPLETED

Yes

No

If yes, this is a Key Decision because:

.....

Wards/Parishes affected:

.....

PROPOSED CHANGES**Review of Polling Districts and Polling Station
(Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006****Maidstone and The Weald Constituency (Part)**Existing Polling Stations and Electorate as at 1st October 2013

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Electorate	Proposals
F	Ward: Bridge	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	2708	(Acting) Returning Officer's proposals: To incorporate the electorate from FA (currently voting at St Simon Stock RC Comprehensive School). The Church Hall is adequate in size to be utilised as a double polling station and is on a main bus route.
FA	Ward: Bridge	St Simon Stock R C Comprehensive School	1994	(Acting) Returning Officer's proposals: To move the electorate to vote at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Car parking at the School is non-existent during school hours which was felt to be an issue with voters. There is ample car parking at the Church and the current polling station is not within Bridge Ward.
30 N	Ward: Heath	Beechwood Community Hall, Marigold Way, Barming	2987	(Acting) Returning Officer's proposals: The electorate within the old hospital site will continue to vote at Beechwood Community Hall. However, complaints have been made to the Presiding Officer that the polling station is difficult to find, to park and is not on a direct bus route. It is our intention to reinstate St Andrews Church Hall as an additional polling place to accommodate electors outside of the former Oakwood hospital site. 1514 of those electors to remain at Beechwood Community Hall.
RR	Ward: Marden and Yalding Parish: Collier Street	St Margarets Church, Collier Street	632	(Acting) Returning Officer's proposals: This current polling place is extremely cold and cooking facilities very limited. It would be possible to pay extra for overhead heating at the Church which would provide some comfort for the polling staff. However, a room at St Margaret's School, Collier Street has now become available which meets the requirements of a polling station and it is our intention to trial the facility for the forthcoming Elections in May 2014. Car Parking at both locations would be the same, i.e. a general car park located adjacent to the Church but it is noted that most voters would park on the main road outside the Church (and opposite the school).

NO CHANGES

APPENDIX B

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006

Faversham and Mid Kent Constituency (Part)

Existing Polling Stations and Electorate as at October 2013

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Comments e.g.:access/location
C	Ward: Bearsted Parish: Bearsted	King George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise	1807	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
CA	Ward: Bearsted Parish: Bearsted	Madginford Hall, Egremont Road	3735	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
CC	Ward: Bearsted Parish: Bearsted	Women's Institute, The Street, Bearsted	1283	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
CS D	Ward: Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton Parish: Boughton Monchelsea South	Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall, Church Street	1354	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
DA	Ward: Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton Parish: Chart Sutton	Chart Sutton Village Hall, Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton	714	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
E	Ward: Boxley Parish: Boxley South	Boxley Church, The Street	168	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
EA	Ward: Boxley Parish: Boxley South	Tyland Barn, Sandling	680	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
EB	Ward: Boxley Parish: Boxley South	Grove Green Community Hall, Penshurst Close	2572	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
EBX	Ward: Boxley	Grove Green Community Hall, Penshurst Close	32	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended

NO CHANGES

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Comments e.g.:access/location
EC	Ward: Boxley Parish: Boxley North	Beechen Hall, Walderslade	3064	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
ED	Ward: Boxley Parish: Bredhurst	Bredhurst Village Hall, Bredhurst	334	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
H/HA	Ward: Detling and Thurnham Parish: Detling	Detling Village Hall, Pilgrims Way	627 80	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
HB	Ward: Detling and Thurnham Parish: Boxley South East	Weaving Village Hall, Weaving Street	789	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
HBX	Ward: Detling and Thurnham Ward	Weaving Village Hall, Weaving Street	99	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
SS HC	Ward: Detling and Thurnham Parish: Thurnham	Women's Institute, The Street, Bearsted	855	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
I	Ward: Downswood and Otham Parish: Downswood	Downswood Community Centre, Chiltern Close, Off Derringwood Drive	1733	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
IA	Ward: Downswood and Otham Parish: Otham	Otham Village Hall, Otham Street	339	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
IB	Ward: Downswood and Otham Parish: Otham	Reculver Walk Day Centre, Reculver Walk	83	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
L	Ward: Harrietsham and Lenham Parish: Harrietsham	Harrietsham Village Hall, Church Road	1759	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
LA	Ward: Harrietsham and Lenham Parish: Lenham North	Lenham Community Centre, Groom Way	1993	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended

NO CHANGES

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Comments e.g.:access/location
LB	Ward: Harrietsham and Lenham Parish: Lenham North	The Harrow Inn, Warren Street	95	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
M	Ward: Headcorn Parish: Boughton Malherbe	Grafty Green Village Hall, Church Road	345	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
MA	Ward: Headcorn Parish: East Sutton	Filmer Hall, East Sutton	201	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
MC	Ward: Headcorn Parish: Headcorn	Headcorn Village Hall, Church Walk	2691	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
MD	Ward: Headcorn Parish: Ulcombe	Ulcombe Village Hall, Headcorn Road	678	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
34 P	Ward: Leeds Parish: Broomfield and Kingswood	Broomfield and Kingswood Village Hall, Gravelly Bottom Road	1367	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
	PA	Ward: Leeds Parish: Leeds	The Church Tower, St Nicholas Church, Leeds	630
T	Ward: North Downs Parish: Bicknor	Cardwell Pavilion, Hollingbourne	68	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
TA	Ward: North Downs Parish: Frinsted	Wormshill Village Hall, Wormshill	114	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
TB	Ward: North Downs Parish: Hollingbourne	The Cardwell Pavilion, Hollingbourne	789	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
TC	Ward: North Downs Parish: Hucking	The Cardwell Pavilion, Hollingbourne	48	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended

NO CHANGES

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Comments e.g.:access/location
TD	Ward: North Downs Parish: Otterden	The Harrow Inn, Warren Street	146	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
TE	Ward: North Downs Parish: Stockbury	Stockbury Memorial Hall, Stockbury	591	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
TF	Ward: North Downs Parish: Wychling	The Harrow Inn, Warren Street	106	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended. However, it has been noted that although the residents of Wychling would prefer to go to Doddington, this is out of the area of Maidstone Borough Council. Due to health and safety reasons it was considered that Wychling Church was unsuitable as a polling station.
TG	Ward: North Downs Parish: Wormshill	Wormshill Village Hall, Wormshill	175	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
35 UA	Ward: Parkwood	Christchurch Hall, Wallis Avenue	2315	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
UB	Ward: Parkwood	Heather House, Bicknor Road	1312	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended. However, to overcome lack of heating in very large hall, screens will be erected to reduce size of polling station and retain heat.
UX	Ward: Parkwood Parish: Boughton Monchelsea North	Christchurch Hall, Wallis Avenue	523	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended. Site visits to area, particularly the new development near Morrisons have not identified any suitable alternative sites.
V	Ward: Shepway North	The Red Cross Centre. School Lane	1244	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
VA	Ward: Shepway North	Shepway Youth & Community Centre, Cumberland Avenue	2094	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended

NO CHANGES

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Comments e.g.:access/location
VB	Ward: Shepway North	Parkway CP School, Park way	2320	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
VC	Ward: Shepway North	Grace Community Church, Grove Road, Mangravet	1118	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
W	Ward: Shepway South	Reculver Walk Day Centre, Reculver Walk	1977	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
WA	Ward: Shepway South	St Martins Church Hall, Northumberland Road	2638	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
Z	Ward: Sutton Valence and Langley Parish: Langley	Langley Village Hall, Horseshoes Lane	1004	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
36 ZA	Ward: Sutton Valence and Langley Parish: Sutton Valence	Sutton Valence Village Hall, Memorial Playing Fields, Maidstone Road	1137	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended

NO CHANGES

**Review of Polling Districts and Polling Station
(Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006**

Maidstone and The Weald Constituency (Part)

Existing Polling Stations and Electorate as at October 2013

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Comments e.g.:access/location
A	Ward: Allington	Allington Community Association, Castle Road, Allington	2305	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
AA	Ward: Allington	St Nicholas Church Hall, Poplar Grove, Allington	3382	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
37 B	Ward: Barming Parish: Barming	Barming Village Hall, Heath Road	1375	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended However, various other polling places within Barming ward have been investigated but considered not suitable. For example, the School and Scout Hut were in a cul-de-sac and therefore no suitable parking provision. Barming Parish Hall is considered to be too far out of the village for the majority of electors.
BA	Ward: Barming Parish: Teston	Teston Village Hall, Church Street	588	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
G	Ward: Coxheath and Hunton Parish: Coxheath	Coxheath Village Hall, Stockett Lane	3340	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
GA	Ward: Coxheath and Hunton Parish: East Farleigh	Old School Hall, Lower Road, East Farleigh	1219	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
GB	Ward: Coxheath and Hunton Parish: Hunton	Hunton Village Hall, West Street	545	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
GC	Ward: Coxheath and Hunton Parish: Linton	Linton Village Hall, Linton Hill	431	(Acting) Returning Officer's comment: No change recommended

NO CHANGES

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Comments e.g.:access/location
GD	Ward: Coxheath and Hunton Parish: West Farleigh	All Saints Church, Church Lane, West Farleigh	376	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
J	Ward: East	St Lukes Church Hall, Foley Street	3842	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
JA	Ward: East	Vinters Community Centre, Aldon Close, Vinters Park	2551	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
JBX	Ward: East Parish: Boxley Woodlands	Vinters Community Centre, Aldon Close, Vinters Park	352	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
K	Ward: Fant	St Michael's CE Junior School, Douglas Road	3994	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended. Have looked in the Hart Street locality and have not found an alternative polling place for those electors.
38 KA	Ward: Fant	Fant Hall, Fant Lane	3036	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
NA	Ward: Heath	Barming Village Hall, Heath Road	1465	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended.
OO	Ward: High Street	St Philips Church Hall, Waterloo Street	2170	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
OA	Ward: High Street	The Maidstone Baptist Church, Knightrider Street	1505	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
OB	Ward: High Street	The Friends Meeting House, Union Street	1215	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
OC	Ward: High Street	Bob Prowse Health Club, Armstrong Hall, Armstrong Road	2214	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended. To avoid confusion for voters, a street list will be displayed outside of the polling station.
QQ	Ward: Loose Parish: Loose	Loose Parish Pavilion, King George V Playing Fields, Walnut Tree Lane, Loose	2116	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended

NO CHANGES

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Comments e.g.:access/location
RA	Ward: Marden and Yalding Parish: Yalding	Laddingford Church Hall, Claygate Road	537	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
RB	Ward: Marden and Yalding Parish: Marden	Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road	2931	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended.
RC	Ward: Marden and Yalding Parish: Nettlestead	Nettlestead Village Hall, Maidstone Road	721	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
RD	Ward: Marden and Yalding Parish: Yalding	Yalding Village Hall, Lyngs Close	1346	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
SS	Ward: North	St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road	4658	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended
39 SA	Ward: North	St Faith's Church Hall, Moncktons Lane	1768	(Acting) Returning Officer's comment: No change recommended. However, the Church Hall is to undergo complete refurbishment, funds allowing from Autumn 2015. Architects think 6 months will be sufficient for completion of the works. However, this may not go to plan and therefore alternative accommodation may have to be sought. Likely alternatives could be Maidstone Football Stadium and the Kent History Centre.
XX	Ward: South	The Vine, Boughton Lane	1316	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended. (This polling station was previously known as Loose Baptist Church.
XA	Ward: South	YMCA, Melrose Close, Cripple Street	2026	(Acting) Returning Officer's Comments: No change recommended
XB	Ward: South Parish: Tovil	St Stephens Day Centre, St Stephens Square, Tovil	2109	(Acting) Returning Officer's Comments: No change recommended
XC	Ward: South Parish: Tovil	Maidstone Hockey Club, Armstrong Road	687	(Acting) Returning Officer's Comments: No change recommended
XD	Ward: South	Maidstone Hockey Club, Armstrong Road	577	(Acting) Returning Officer's Comments: No change recommended. To avoid confusion for voters, a street list will be displayed outside of the polling station.
YA	Ward: Staplehurst Parish: Staplehurst	Staplehurst Village Centre, High Street	4725	(Acting) Returning Officer's comments: No change recommended

PROPOSED CHANGES**Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations
(Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006****Faversham and Mid Kent Constituency (Part)**Existing Polling Stations and Electorate as at 1st October 2013

POLLING DISTRICT Letters	Borough Ward & Parish (Parish Ward)	Polling Station	Elect-orate	Proposals
LC	Ward: Harrietsham and Lenham Parish: Lenham South	Lenham Community Centre	741	(Acting) Returning Officer's proposals: To use St Edmunds Centre, Platts Heath as electorates from this polling district have complained that the distance to the centre of Lenham is a fair distance from the village of Platts Heath.
40 MB	Ward: Headcorn Parish: Headcorn	Hawkenbury Public House	126	(Acting) Returning Officer's proposals: The position of the station within the polling place will change from the Games Room to the small Restaurant as the facilities are more accessible and away from the bar area and therefore lessens the opportunity for users of the public house to interfere with the democratic process. It is also feasible that electors from the Hawkenbury area could vote at either Headcorn Village Hall or Sutton Valence Village Hall dependent on the polling area.
ZB	Ward: Sutton Valence and Langley Parish: Sutton Valence	Hawkenbury Public House	64	(Acting) Returning Officer's proposals: The position of the station within the polling place will change from the Games Room to the small Restaurant as the facilities are more accessible and away from the bar area and therefore lessens the opportunity for users of the public house to interfere with the democratic process. It is also feasible that electors from the Hawkenbury area could vote at either Headcorn Village Hall or Sutton Valence Village Hall dependent on the polling area.