

CGR 26

Parishes Affected

Watlington, Pyrton, Pishill with Stonor

Matter to be considered

Amending the boundary of Watlington parish to include all properties in Christmas Common

Impact on district and county council boundaries

None

Summary of parish council responses

Watlington parish council proposed moving properties in Hollandridge Lane from Pishill with Stonor parish into its parish on the basis that the residents in these properties related much more to Watlington than Pishill. It has subsequently indicated that, “this is far more extensive than the change we originally suggested and appears to be opposed by a majority of the residents affected as well as by Pyrton Parish Council. In particular the transfer of Charity Lands from Pyrton into Watlington will lead to all sorts of complexities that are better avoided. Accordingly we have decided not to support this change.”

Pyrton parish council has written saying, “having heard the views of our residents in the Christmas Common and Portways areas of Pyrton Parish, almost all of whom are very strong supporters of most communal and church activities in this parish, we believe that you should withdraw your Review Group’s proposal to switch any part of Pyrton Parish into Watlington Parish. Your suggestion regarding Christmas Common is unwanted and unnecessary and goes against the principle of localism.”

Pishill with Stonor supports the proposal to include the whole of Christmas Common in Watlington parish.

Summary of other responses

We have received a number of letters from private individuals regarding this proposal. Around six come from residents of Pyrton parish living in the Christmas Common area, all of whom are opposed to any boundary change. One comes from a resident of a property in Watlington parish at Christmas Common, who has asked to be moved into Pyrton parish. The remainder of the letters come from residents living elsewhere in Pyrton parish who have

objected to any changes to the parish boundary, either here or at Watlington sports field.

The principle objection to changing the boundary at Christmas Common is that it is an historic one and should remain untouched.

Recommendation

To amend the boundary of Watlington parish to include those properties in Christmas Common that currently lie within Pishill with Stonor and Pyrton parishes, as shown on the attached map.

Justification

Christmas Common as a fairly isolated hamlet most easily accessed from Watlington. The properties in Christmas Common are split currently between three parishes, which does allow for effective and convenient representation of residents at parish level. It also means that some people are in a different parish from their neighbours. All those living in Pyrton or Pishill with Stonor parish have to travel into Watlington parish in order to move out of the immediate area westwards.

The working group considers that the interests of residents are best served by all properties in Christmas Common being in the same parish and Watlington is the most appropriate. The main settlements in Pishill with Stonor parish are further away than Watlington and more difficult to access, whilst people have to travel through Watlington to get to Pyrton village.