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Minutes of the meeting of the **ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 4 December 2012 at 10.00 am

Present:

Chairman: Councillor P A Watkins

Councillors: S S Chandler
G Cowan (In place of J H Goodwin)
P J Hawkins
F J W Scales

Officers: Democratic Services Manager
Team Leader – Electoral and Local Land Charges
Team Leader – Democratic Support

1 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J H Goodwin.

2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor G Cowan had been appointed as substitute for Councillor J H Goodwin.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

Councillor P J Hawkins advised for information that she was the mother of the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Labour Party for the Dover Constituency.

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 17 November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the report on the Boundary Commission for England's revised proposals for new parliamentary constituencies following the consultation on its initial proposals.

The Committee was advised that the revised proposals for the renamed Dover and Deal constituency had an electorate of 78,522 and contained all of the existing Dover District Council wards with the exception of Little Stour & Ashstone and Sandwich wards which would form part of the revised East Thanet constituency. The new Dover and Deal constituency would include only a single Shepway District Council ward (North East Downs) as the Elham and Stelling Minnis ward previously proposed for inclusion was now to remain with the Folkestone and Hythe constituency in order to balance the size of the two constituencies. The Boundary Commission England had rejected proposals from the Labour Party for the inclusion of the Barham Downs ward of Canterbury City Council within the Dover and Deal Constituency.

As the closing date for responses to the consultation was prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Council, the Committee was advised that its views would be submitted to the Boundary Commission England and the Council would be asked to reconfirm them at its meeting to be held on 12 December 2012.

The consensus of opinion was to support the proposals for the new Dover and Deal CC name as well as the inclusion of the Little Stour & Ashstone ward and the Sandwich ward within the Thanet constituency.

It was moved by Councillor G Cowan and duly seconded

That the Council respond to the consultation on the revised proposals to urge for the inclusion of the Barham Downs ward within the new Dover and Deal Constituency.

On being put to the vote it was LOST.

It was moved by Councillor S S Chandler, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Council that it endorse the views of the Electoral Matter Committee in respect of the Boundary Commission England's revised proposals for parliamentary constituencies as follows:

- (a) That support be expressed for the new constituency name of Dover and Deal CC.
- (b) That the decision to accept the representation previously submitted by the Council in response to the initial proposals with regard to the inclusion of both Little Stour and Ashstone and Sandwich wards within a Thanet constituency be welcomed.
- (c) That the inclusion of the North East Downs ward within the constituency of Dover and Deal be supported.

The meeting ended at 10.15 am.