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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

16th November, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Shepherd (in the Chair)
Councillors Barfield, Beasant, Bramley, Brookes, Brown, Burton, Cairns, Colquhoun, Cracknell, Darby, De Freitas, Dickerson, Fenty, Goodwin, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hyldon-King, Jackson, Lindley, Mickleburgh, Oxby, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Rogers, Rudd, Shreeve, Stinson, Stockton, Sutton, Walker, Watson, K. Wheatley, P. Wheatley and Wilson.

OFFICERS:	Rob Walsh	Chief Executive
	Tony Maione	Monitoring Officer
	Iain Lovell	Group Manager Customer and Communications
	Paul Windley	Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager
	Paul Wisken	Civic and Mayoral Officer

NEL.93 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Barber, Bolton, Chase, Hudson, James and McGilligan-Fell.

NEL.94 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in any of the items on the agenda for this meeting.

NEL.95 **PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW - CONSULTATION**

The Council considered a report setting out proposals contained within a consultation document produced by the Boundary Commission on the future arrangements for Parliamentary Constituencies across the country.

It was noted that this matter had been considered at a special meeting of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee held on 9th November, 2016 and the minutes of that meeting were circulated at this meeting.

Councillor Brown, Chair of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee moved the recommendations from the Committee, as set out in the minutes, and this was seconded by Councillor Fenty.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor K. Wheatley, as follows:

- “1. North East Lincolnshire Council believes that this Parliamentary Boundary Review is ill timed because:
 - there is a rekindling of national and global interest in democratic representation, evidenced locally by a 4% increase in registered elector numbers in the borough between Dec 2015 and June 2016,
 - we need stability in western democracies and, in local terms, the certainty and continuity of one constituency MP for the centuries-old charter town of Great Grimsby, and one MP for Cleethorpes and associated rural and semi-rural areas.

2. North East Lincolnshire Council sympathises with the very rigorous constraints on the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) but considers that to divide Great Grimsby, as proposed, would be damaging because:
 - there would be no single voice to speak for Grimsby businesses, the Port of Grimsby and the much-needed economic development and regeneration of the town, just when Grimsby’s project to become the Energy Capital of the UK is beginning to take off,
 - established communities would be split, randomly creating more boundary length along the middle of urban residential streets than the existing, historic and well understood Grimsby/Cleethorpes boundary,
 - on social issues, such as aspiration, education and the skills of the workforce, one urban constituency (Great Grimsby) and another mainly rural and tourist constituency (Cleethorpes) would be replaced with two mixed urban/rural constituencies where travel to learn and travel to work patterns would lack coherence

3. North East Lincolnshire Council notes that Sidney Sussex ward is closely allied in urban character to East Marsh ward which adjoins it and proposes that the BCE consider the following two constituencies as an exception to the rule:

Cleethorpes, Brigg and Barton

Croft Baker	8502
Haverstoe	8218
Humberston and New Waltham	8953
Immingham	8529
Waltham	5714
Wolds	5791
Barton	8430
Brigg and Wolds	8632
Broughton and Appleby	5017
Ferry	8583
Total	76369 (which is in range)

Greater Grimsby

East Marsh	6268
Freshney	7204
Heneage	7717
Park	8587
Scarho	8526
Sidney Sussex	7837
South	7679
West Marsh	4495
Yarborough	8521
Total	66834 (only 6% below range)

Furthermore, the BCE should consider removing Broughton and Appleby ward from Cleethorpes Brigg and Barton and leaving 71 352 electors which is still in range, and thus retaining a natural constituency boundary defined by the River Ancholme and reducing the excessively long East-West axis.

The Council notes that if Croft Baker ward were to be split between the above proposed constituencies the numbers could be balanced up so as to fall in range.”

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote. A recorded vote was requested in accordance with the requirements of the Council’s Standing Orders, and the votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the amendment

Councillors Beasant, Brown, Burton, Darby, Goodwin, Hyldon-King, Mickleburgh, Oxby, Patrick, Rogers, Rudd, Stinson, Sutton, Walker, Watson, K. Wheatley, P. Wheatley and Wilson (18 votes).

Against the amendment

Councillors Barfield, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Colquhoun, Cracknell, De Freitas, Dickerson, Fenty, Harness, Hasthorpe, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Shreeve and Stockton (17 votes).

Abstention

Councillor Shepherd (1 vote).

The amended Motion, being the new substantive Motion, was then debated and put to the vote by the Deputy Mayor. A recorded vote was held in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Standing Orders, the votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the amendment

Councillors Beasant, Brown, Burton, Darby, Goodwin, Hyldon-King, Mickleburgh, Oxby, Patrick, Rogers, Rudd, Stinson, Sutton, Walker, Watson, K. Wheatley, P. Wheatley and Wilson (18 votes).

Against the amendment

Councillors Barfield, Bramley, Brookes, Cairns, Colquhoun, Cracknell, De Freitas, Dickerson, Fenty, Harness, Hasthorpe, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Shreeve and Stockton (17 votes).

Abstention

Councillor Shepherd (1 vote).

RESOLVED –

(1) That this Council believes that this Parliamentary Boundary Review is ill timed because:

- there is a rekindling of national and global interest in democratic representation, evidenced locally by a 4% increase in registered elector numbers in the borough between Dec 2015 and June 2016,
- we need stability in western democracies and, in local terms, the certainty and continuity of one constituency MP for the centuries-old charter town of Great Grimsby, and one MP for Cleethorpes and associated rural and semi-rural areas.

(2) That this Council sympathises with the very rigorous constraints on the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) but considers that to divide Great Grimsby, as proposed, would be damaging because:

- there would be no single voice to speak for Grimsby businesses, the Port of Grimsby and the much-needed economic development and regeneration of

the town, just when Grimsby's project to become the Energy Capital of the UK is beginning to take off,

- established communities would be split, randomly creating more boundary length along the middle of urban residential streets than the existing, historic and well understood Grimsby/Cleethorpes boundary,
- on social issues, such as aspiration, education and the skills of the workforce, one urban constituency (Great Grimsby) and another mainly rural and tourist constituency (Cleethorpes) would be replaced with two mixed urban/rural constituencies where travel to learn and travel to work patterns would lack coherence

(3) That this Council notes that Sidney Sussex ward is closely allied in urban character to East Marsh ward which adjoins it and that the Boundary Commission for England be requested by this Council to consider the following two constituencies as an exception to the rule:

Cleethorpes, Brigg and Barton

Croft Baker	8502
Haverstoe	8218
Humberston and New Waltham	8953
Immingham	8529
Waltham	5714
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Total	66834 (only 6% below range)

Furthermore, the BCE should consider removing Broughton and Appleby ward from Cleethorpes Brigg and Barton and leaving 71,352 electors which is still in range, and thus retaining a natural constituency boundary defined by the River Ancholme and reducing the excessively long East-West axis.

There being no further business, the Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.