PARISH REVIEW WORKING PARTY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2009

Present: Councillors N Williams, Chairman; P Connolly; P Tyson.

Officers: M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services;

T Capper, Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Clements; F

Gleaves; R Heathcote

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 December 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Declarations of Interests

Councillor P Tyson declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (Community Governance Review – Sandwith) as a resident of Sandwith.

Community Governance Review – Sandwith

The Working Party noted that a request had been received from the Sandwith Village Group to the Council for establishment of a standalone parish for Sandwith or Sandwith and Rottington. The report explained the Council's powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to undertake community governance reviews for all or part of the Borough, and how the current request fitted into other current issues, particularly the question of whether or not a parish council should be established for Whitehaven.

It was agreed to note the request from the Sandwith Village Group but to defer it pending a wider community governance review to be undertaken later in 2009/2010.

Copeland (Parishes) Order 2009

The Working Party noted the contents of a report on the Copeland (Parishes) Order 2009, and that there were outstanding issues relating to electoral arrangements in Lamplugh and St Bees which would require separate orders under Section 86 of the 2007 Act.

Whitehaven Town Council – Arrangements for Further Consultation

The Working Party considered a report setting out options for consultation on the possibility of a Whitehaven Town Council, with costs for each option. It was noted that there was no budget for the costs of further consultation, whether through a referendum or otherwise.

It was agreed that a report be submitted to Council seeking guidance on the way forward, and recommending Option (d), to do nothing pending clarification of the position on a Special Expenses scheme for Whitehaven

The meeting closed at 10.45 am

Chairman