



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: 10 September 2018
Prepared by: Rob Martin
Subject: Parish Council Wards

CHANGES TO PARISH COUNCIL WARDS

1. At the Parish Council meeting on 12 March 2018, Minute 17/208 stated that:
'REDUCTION IN WARDS FOR ANGMERING
A discussion took place regarding Downs Way and a possible change of boundary to bring the road within East Preston parish, and to clearly define the parish boundary north and south of the A259. Councillor Bicknell proposed contacting Arun District Council to request a boundary change. This was unanimously agreed.'
2. Cllr. Bicknell believes that this minute misrepresented the position that the parish council took, even though the minute was adopted as correct at the meeting of 9th April 2018, Minute 222. There is certainly some question about whether the parish council intention is reflected in this minute.
3. Immediately prior to the last Parish Council Election in May 2015 it was announced that rather than the former position Angmering Parish would consist of two separate **Wards**, Angmering Village and Angmering South with the respective councillor numbers being 11 & 2. This means that the election of councillors would be completely separate in the two wards.
4. This means that the 800 people in 400 homes south of the A259 would have to choose only two councillors, from those that had specifically put their names forward for that ward. This creates a certain amount of complication once every four years.
5. The Clerk, following the meeting in March contacted Electoral Services at Arun DC and discussed the option of returning to just having one ward for the whole parish, for all 13 councillors. A major problem emerged during those discussions however because of pressure being brought by other District Councillors who wished to achieve a more fundamental change by taking the boundary with East Preston up to the A259 instead, which would mean that the South Ward residents would then become East Preston Parish rather than Angmering Parish. It was stated that this was a more likely outcome than our suggestion of pursuing the merging of the wards.
6. This would have the effect of reducing the Council Tax base for Angmering by around 400 homes, losing at least £40,000 from the precept in one step. The Clerk believed that Council needed to consider the matter again before actively pursuing the change. As an agreed minute cannot be changed within 6 months, this is the first meeting that it can be reconsidered by.
7. Councillors are requested to consider this matter again.