

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.626

Parish Review

DISTRICT OF SOUTH
OXFORDSHIRE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 626

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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DISTRICT OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE
PARTIAL PARISH REVIEW CONDUCTED UNDER SECTION 48(9) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT AND PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 22 April 1991, following consideration of the report of a parish review conducted by South Oxfordshire District Council, we wrote to say that we had endorsed the District Council's recommendations and were commending them to you. However, we had noted that the District Council's report made no recommendations in respect of two parishes, Shirburn and Thomley, which had apparently ceased to function; we therefore decided to conduct our own partial parish review under Section 48(9) of the Local Government Act 1972, and at the same time to publish draft proposals.

FORMULATION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

(i) Shirburn/Pyrton

2. We noted that the parish of Shirburn shared the greater part of its boundary with the parishes of Lewknor and Pyrton. We considered that ties were likely to be stronger with Pyrton than with Lewknor because of the closer proximity of the villages and the fact that Pyrton, unlike Lewknor, is in the same district ward as Shirburn. We decided therefore to propose the amalgamation of the parishes of Shirburn and Pyrton and to name the new parish "Pyrton with Shirburn".

(ii) Thomley/Waterperry

3. We noted that the parish of Thomley shared almost its entire southern boundary with the parish of Waterperry and that both

parishes were in the same district ward. We decided to propose the amalgamation of the parishes of Thomley and Waterperry and to name the new parish "Waterperry with Thomley".

(iii) Other Areas

4. We considered extending the scope of our review to cover the parishes of Crowmarsh, Didcot, East Hagbourne, Long Wittenham and Wallingford, in the light of suggestions for change to the boundaries of these parishes which had been made to the District Council at the time of its own review, suggestions which the District Council did not adopt. However, after seeking and obtaining further information from the District Council about the areas in question, we concluded that there was no justification at this time for changes to the boundaries of these parishes and decided to exclude them from our review.

PUBLICATION OF OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS

5. Our draft proposals were published on 22 April 1991 in a letter to the Chief Executive of South Oxfordshire District Council. Copies were sent to Oxfordshire County Council; to the parish councils of Lewknor, Pyrton, Stoke Talmage, Waterperry and Watlington; to the parish meetings of Shirburn, Thomley and Waterstock; to the Member of Parliament for Henley; to the headquarters of the main political parties; to newspapers circulating in the district; and to local television and radio stations. Notices announcing the draft proposals were inserted in local newspapers and placed on public notice boards. Comments were invited by 17 June 1991.

RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS

(i) Shirburn/Pyrton

6. In response to our draft proposals, we received representations from South Oxfordshire District Council, Pyrton

Parish Council, Shirburn Parish Meeting and seven private individuals.

7. All the representations opposed our draft proposal to amalgamate Shirburn with Pyrton. Neither parish wished to merge and, it was said, they shared no physical connections or social ties. Further, Shirburn Parish Meeting is a functioning parish again, having met four times in the past 15 months.

(ii) Thomley/Waterperry

8. The only representation we received was from South Oxfordshire District Council which had no objection to our draft proposal.

OUR CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL PROPOSALS

9. In the light of evidence that the parish of Shirburn is meeting regularly we have concluded that our draft proposal to amalgamate Shirburn with Pyrton is no longer justified. We have decided therefore to withdraw it.

10. In the case of Thomley, however, we have received no evidence to contradict the District Council's earlier statement that the parish has ceased to meet; we concluded that Thomley is a non-functioning parish. We therefore confirm our draft proposal to amalgamate the parish of Thomley with the parish of Waterperry, with the name "Waterperry and Thomley", as final.

PUBLICATION

11. A separate letter is being sent, with copies of this report, to South Oxfordshire District Council asking them, in accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, to place a copy on deposit at its main office, together with a copy of our draft proposals letter, and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards. We have also arranged for notices

announcing our decisions to be inserted in local newspapers. The text of the notice will explain that we have fulfilled our statutory role in the matter and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals if you think fit, though not earlier than six weeks from the date they are submitted to you. Copies of this report have also been sent to Oxfordshire County Council; the Clerks to the parish councils of Lewknor, Pyrton, Waterperry and Watlington, the Chairman of the parish meetings of Shirburn, Stoke Talmage, Thomley and Waterstock; the Member of Parliament for the Henley constituency; to the headquarters of the main political parties; and to all persons or bodies who made representations to us at any stage of the review.

Signed

G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

PROFESSOR K YOUNG

R D COMPTON

Commission Secretary

21 November 1991

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