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Minutes of the meeting of the **Public Facing Boundary Review Panel** held in Zoom on Friday 22 March 2024 at 9.30 am

Members Present: Mr J Brown, Mr S Johnson, Mr T O'Kelly and Ms V Weller

Members not present: Mr R Briscoe and Mr T Johnson

In attendance by invitation:

Officers present all items: Mrs L Baines (Democratic Services Manager), Miss M de Silva Puttick (Democratic Services Officer), Mrs S McKellar (Electoral Services Officer), Mr J Mildred (Divisional Manager for Corporate Services) and Mrs J Ward (Elections Manager)

1 **Election of Chair**

Cllr Brown proposed Cllr O'Kelly to Chair.

Cllr Weller seconded Cllr Brown's proposal.

Cllr O'Kelly was elected to chair the Boundary Review Panel.

2 **Chair's Announcements**

Apologies were received from Cllr Briscoe and Cllr T Johnson.

3 **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting 15 November 2022 were approved as a correct record.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

5 **Introduction to the role of the Boundary Review Panel**

Mr Mildred introduced the role of the Boundary Review Panel. He explained that the Panel is an ad hoc meeting regarding electoral matters and usually arise upon request from parish councils, with the last major electoral review taking place in 2015. In this review, a thirty-six-councillor administration replaced a forty-eight-councillor administration. He explained that this was an attempt to prevent councillors from smaller wards being left out of mainstream district discussions and

to make voting in these wards fairer. The upcoming parliamentary boundary review has been requested by Central Government.

Cllr Brown commented that thirty-six councillors is probably not enough for the size of the Chichester district.

6 **Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations**

Mrs Ward introduced the report. She explained that the boundary review is legally required to take place every five years but that it is carried out annually. The consultation is to take place before the end of January 2025 and feedback generated will be passed back to the Boundary Review Panel before going on to Full Council in November 2024. She confirmed that the vote decided by the Panel in the present meeting is to pass the resolution to send out the consultation.

In a vote, the following resolutions were agreed:

RESOLVED

1. That the Returning Officer's schedule, as set out in Appendix 1 be consulted on with District Councillors, Parish Councils and any other interested parties.
2. A further report be tabled to the Boundary Review Panel at its next meeting to assess any representations received.
3. The review be concluded by October 2024; and
4. A report on the representations received, with recommendations, be made to the Council Meeting in November 2024.

7 **Late Items**

There were no Late Items.

The meeting ended at 9.55 am

CHAIRMAN

Date: