

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 27 OCTOBER 1997**

Present: D E Parish (Chairman), E D Dennis, Mrs G M Godfrey, Mrs B D Graham, S F Lehner, J L Spearing, R Steele, L G Vearncombe, R J Vile & the clerk.
Apologies: B E Holmes, D R Maynard.

83. Periodic Electoral Review

Copies of the Summary Submission, Review Procedure and relevant Annexes being made to the MDDC Policy & Development Committee for the meeting on 30 October had been circulated to all councillors.

The Chairman invited Councillor Dennis to speak on the importance of the submissions. Councillor Dennis said he felt the proposals were politically motivated, it was gov't policy to reduce the number of Parish Councils, although at this stage, there were no proposed reductions, these would come after the review now taking place.

Based on projected figures, Willand being 48% above the norm per head of population against per District Councillor, while others with whom it was proposed to amalgamate were 13 % below the norm, is seen as balancing act. With no provision in place to increase the District Councillor representation within MDDC, the proposals are seen as a possible way forward.

Changes within the 2011 Structure Plan have, he felt, highlighted a possible hidden agenda to incorporate councils together, allowing expanded development without boundary changes. Thus, with our being amalgamated with Halberton, any 2011 Development extension north of the Willand, would fall within the Halberton Parish. Any financial and infrastructure benefits would have to be shared, and could result in increased pressures on existing and future residential developments. The impact on Willand would be significant, reducing yet again the opportunity to make good the infrastructure imbalance, created due to previous bad planning decisions.

He felt we should oppose the proposals as being ill thought out, ill conceived and with insufficient consultation response time. If this review is approved, the impact would be significant, not least from the geographic area of residential sites within the enlarged Ward, but also its relation to traffic issues, along with the inadequate balance for future business and employment opportunities. To allow just seven days to consider such an important document is a slight by MDDC on the residents concerned.

Several Councillors spoke in support of the observations and the Council decided that Councillor Dennis should put the case forward in the manner he had indicated.

Closure: The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Dennis
13-11-97