

# Minute of the meeting of Abthorpe Parish Council held on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 7.45pm** at The Old School, Abthorpe.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence  
Apologies received from Cllr Hammon (on holiday) and Cllr Cambray (called to assist with Church fire) were accepted. Apology also received from the Clerk, which was accepted.
2. Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda  
There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Future Northants - Consultation on Local Government Reform**

The Chairman summarised the objective of the meeting as a need to arrive at a collective view/opinion as to the desirability of changing the Local Authority Structure across Northamptonshire to a Unitary system as described in the Options presented in the Consultation Document.

The responses of all stakeholder Authorities and individuals will inform the decision as to whether to make a submission or not to Government to change to a Unitary Structure.

It has been proposed that 2 new Unitary Authorities be created each with over 300,000 residents – the population level deemed necessary for a unitary system to work. This could be achieved by Daventry, South Northants and the urban area of Northampton becoming one Unitary authority, with the remaining 5 Authorities in the east and north of the County forming a second Unitary Authority of North Northants.

A number of Parishioners spoke about the options presented and the implications for this area. Overall it was felt that:

- Too little information has been provided to inform our choice and decision.
- There is no evidence that reorganisation will solve the problem of Northampton County Council
- No indication that a unitary structure will be properly resourced and funded
- Insufficient evidence to support the claim that 2 unitary authorities will be more economic

Overall, there was unanimous agreement that:

- We do not want to be in a Local Authority dominated by Northampton Borough
- We would lose the autonomy we enjoy if we were in a Unitary Authority which included Northampton.
- The issues faced in rural areas such as South Northants are significantly different from those faced by Northampton Borough.

4. Parish Council Submission to Public Participation Questionnaire
  - Parishioners present vehemently disagree with the proposed Unitary Structure based on 2 authorities.
  - ABTHORPE Parish proposes a Unitary system based on the creation of 3 unitary Authorities:
    - North and north east districts
    - Northampton Borough
    - Daventry and South Northants B

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the local MP to register our disapproval of the process that had been implemented to discuss and decide our future

5. Any other business  
Mr Berry advised that the mower is now registered and taxed till July 19. The tax is £nil. Insurance is required, but it will not require an MOT.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked residents for their attendance and participation, and the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed