

Minutes of Cabinet meeting held on 26 May 2016

CA8 **ADOPTION OF STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING POLICY**

At the meeting on 7 April, the Cabinet had asked for an amendment to the section of the policy relating to the renaming of existing streets. This was specifically for cases when the emergency services had problems locating a street and asked for it to be renamed. The new policy would allow the proposal to go ahead if a two-thirds majority of residents were in favour rather than the 100% currently stipulated in the scheme.

It was explained that a request for a change of name would be made to the town/parish. They would inform the district council who would print the list of properties to be consulted and the ballot papers, which would be distributed by the local council.

Saffron Walden Town Council had submitted a letter that raised concern at the lack of consultation on this amendment and particularly the reference to conducting a ballot, which could have resource implications for town and parish councils.

Councillor Richard Freeman addressed the meeting. He spoke about the importance of town and parish councils in this process, as it was clear that the best people to name a street were those who actually lived there. He understood there was legislation in respect of the naming of streets but was concerned at the lack of consultation with local councils on the details of the proposed scheme. It appeared that sensible local suggestions might not be allowed under the new policy. There were still points to be addressed to avoid anomalies and he would like these to be considered before the policy was adopted.

Councillor Redfern said in her experience, it was the parish council views that were taken into account when new street name suggestions came forward.

Members agreed with the proposed amendment to paragraph 1.5.2. It was also suggested that local members should be informed about proposed new street names in their wards, and this should be written into the procedure.

RESOLVED

- 1 To adopt the revised Street Naming and Numbering Policy March 2016, to include an amended para 1.5.2 in relation to the renaming of an existing street.
- 2 To adopt the Street Naming and Numbering guide to the process, with an additional clause that district members should be informed about proposals for new street names in their ward.