

Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	19 July 2018
Subject:	Changing of Parish Council's Name		
Report of:	Head of Regulation and Compliance	Wards Affected:	Park
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Sefton Parish Council wishes to change its name to the Parish Council of Sefton and Lunt Villages to include the interests of the Village of Lunt and to stop any confusion by members of the public that the Parish Council is Sefton Parish Church or Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council.

Recommendation(s):

In accordance with Section 75 of the Local Government Act, 1972 Council approve the change of name of Sefton Parish Council to the Parish Council of Sefton and Lunt Villages and formalise that change by writing to the relevant Bodies, as detailed in paragraph 2.1 to the report.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The interests of the Village of Lunt should be included in the title of the Civil Parish to highlight to the residents that they come under the auspices of the Civil Parish Council and the elected representatives.

The public have confused the Civil Parish with the Parochial Church Council of Sefton Parish Church and Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council; with some members of the public in recent years seeking advice from the Civil Parish believing it to be Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options were considered.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications: Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The change of name of the Parish Council will make it more representative of the community it represents.
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: The change of name of the Parish Council will make it more representative of the community it represents.
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener: N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.5213/18.....) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4437/18.....) have been consulted and have no comments on the report

(B) External Consultations

Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 does not require a consultation process to be undertaken by the Parish Council prior to considering the request at full council, on that basis the Parish Council have considered whether there is a need for a consultation process, and have come to the conclusion it would not be a beneficial use of public money of going through a public consultation.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Meeting of the Council.

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Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

None

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that at the request of a Parish Council, the Council of the District in which the parish is situated may change the name of the parish.
- 1.2 On Friday 9th March 2018 Sefton Parish Council met for their annual parish meeting and the change of name was on the Agenda.
- 1.3 Madam Chairman highlighted the reason for the suggestion of the name change, being the importance of including the interests of Lunt Village within the Parish Church and affirming with the residents of the village that they also come under the auspices of the Parish Council and elected representatives. In addition, there was a concern since Madam Chairman's term of office that the public had confused the Civil Parish with the Parochial Church Council of Sefton Parish Church and it came to light it had been fed back to the CEO that developers, with whom he had communication with, report to third parties that having spoken with him they were under the impression that Sefton Civil Parish was actually Sefton MBC and due to this confusion the residents of the Borough had searched online and inadvertently sought advice from the Parish Council believing them to be Sefton MBC.
- 1.4 Due to the reasons outlined above, it was decided the most appropriate cause of action would be to change the Parish Council's name from Sefton Parish Council to the Parish Council of Sefton and Lunt Villages.
- 1.5 At the Parish Council's annual meeting it was unanimously resolved to seek leave of Sefton MBC to change the name of the Civil Parish pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 section 75.
- 1.6 Sefton MBC legal department considered the legal implications of the change of name and it was noted s75 Local Government Act 1972 does not require a consultation process to be undertaken by the Parish Council prior to considering the request at full Council, further research of other Local Authorities showed some had consulted with the public prior to making the change and some had not
- 1.7 The information was fed back to the Parish Council and they decided a public consultation process would not take place as other consultations had taken place on other matters with little involvement from the public and they did not consider it would be a beneficial use of public money and could not be justified.

2.0 Formal Arrangements

- 2.1 Should the Council be minded to approve the change of name of the Parish Council, notice of that change is required to be sent to the Government office, to the Office for National Statistics and Registrar General for England and Wales. It must also be published and in an appropriate manner elsewhere; usually in the local press.