

Minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**4th March 2019 at 5.00 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Dhallu (Chair);
Councillors P Davies and Tagger.

Apologies: Councillors S Crumpton, Y Davies and
S Hosell.

1/19 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matter not delegated to the Committee

2/19 **Changes to Polling Places for use at Local Elections 2019**

The Committee were informed of proposed changes to two polling stations in the Bristnall and Wednesbury South wards as the current stations were no longer available. This arrangement would be for the election in May 2019.

Bristnall Ward

Members were advised that in respect to the polling station in Bristnall, which covered polling district BRB/BRC, the existing provision was not available for this year's election.

As part of the consultation process, local ward members had recommended Moat Farm Infant School as an alternative provision to be considered for use as the polling place. The walking distance from the existing polling place to Moat Farm Infant School was 8 minutes (0.4 miles) via Bristnall Hall Road.

General Purposes and Arbitration Committee – 4 March 2019

The school was considered to be a suitable building with good access.

The cost for using Moat Farm Infant School would be free of charge to the Returning Officer other than the cost for heating and lighting.

The proposal was supported by all ward members.

Wednesbury South

Members were advised that in respect of the polling place in Wednesbury South, which covered polling district WSA/WSB, the existing provision had been damaged during a flood and building works and the car park would not be completed in time for the Local Elections in May 2019.

Officers had investigated the area and there were no other suitable venues available. The proposal was to place a portable unit on the grassed area opposite the Church to use as the polling station.

The cost of the portable unit was £1,400.00

Ward members had been consulted and no adverse comments had been received.

Following consideration of both options, the Committee was minded to recommend the proposal to use Moat Farm Infant School as a polling station for Bristnall ward and that a portable unit be used as a polling station sited opposite the former polling place, for Wednesbury South ward.

Resolved to recommend to Council that:-

- (1) the polling station in respect of polling district Bristnall ward BRB/BRC be relocated to Moat Farm Infant School, Brookfields Road, Oldbury, B68 9QR for the Local Election on 2 May 2019;

General Purposes and Arbitration Committee – 4 March 2019

- (2) the polling station in respect of polling district Wednesbury South ward WSA/WSB be relocated to a portable unit sited opposite the former polling place at Leabrook Methodist Church, Leabrook Road North, Wednesbury, WS10 7LY for the Local Election on 2 May 2019.

(Meeting ended at 5.13 pm)

Contact Officer: Shane Parkes
Democratic Services Unit
0121 569 3190