STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No. 104

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE, ENGLAND AND WALES

The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2015

Made - - - - *30th January 2015*

Laid before Parliament *4th February 2015*

Coming into force in accordance with rule 1(2)

The Lord President of the Council in exercise of the powers conferred by section 36(1) and (2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983(**1**) makes the following Rules.

The Lord President of the Council has consulted the Electoral Commission as required by section 7(1) and (2)(d) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000(**2**).

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Rules may be cited as the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2015.

(2) These Rules come into force on 2nd March 2015 but have no effect in relation to any election in respect of which the date of the poll specified in the notice of election is on or before 6th May 2015.

(3) In these Rules, "the 2006 Rules" means the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006(**3**).

(4) In these Rules, unless otherwise stated, any reference to a numbered rule or Schedule is a reference to the rule or Schedule bearing that number in the 2006 Rules.

Amendment of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006

2.—(1) Schedule 2 (Rules for Conduct of an Election of Councillors of a Parish or Community where Poll is not taken together with Poll at another Election) is amended as follows.

(**1**) 1983 c.2; the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by section 36(1) and (2) were made exercisable concurrently by the Lord President of the Council and the Secretary of State by the Lord President of the Council Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1837).
(**2**) 2000 c.41; section 7 has been amended but the amendments are not relevant to these Rules.
(**3**) S.I. 2006/3305; Schedules 2 and 3 were amended by S.I 2014/492.

(2) In rule 25(1), for "noon" substitute "4 in the afternoon".

(3) In the Appendix of Forms—

(a) in the "Form of Candidate's Consent to Nomination"—

(i) omit the words from ", and I do not hold a politically restricted post" to "within the meaning of that Part.";

(ii) in the "Back of form"—

(aa) for "section 79" substitute "sections 78A and 79";

(bb) after "Local Government Act 2000" insert "and section 34 of the Localism Act 2011";

(b) for the following forms substitute the corresponding forms in Schedule 1 to these Rules—

(i) Form of Front of Ballot Paper;

(ii) Directions as to Printing the Ballot Paper.

3.—(1) Schedule 3 (Rules for Conduct of an Election of Councillors of a Parish or Community where the Poll is taken together with the Poll at a Relevant Election or Referendum) is amended as follows.

(2) In rule 25(1), for "noon" substitute "4 in the afternoon".

(3) In the Appendix of Forms—

(a) in the "Form of Candidate's Consent to Nomination"—

(i) omit the words from ", and I do not hold a politically restricted post" to "within the meaning of that Part.";

(ii) in the "Back of form"—

(aa) for "section 79" substitute "sections 78A and 79";

(bb) after "Local Government Act 2000" insert "and section 34 of the Localism Act 2011";

(b) in the heading to the Form of Postal Voting Statement (for use when a local government poll is combined with another poll but the postal ballot papers are not combined), for "local government poll" substitute "parish or community poll";

(c) for the following forms substitute the corresponding forms in Schedule 2 to these Rules—

(i) Form of Front of Ballot Paper;

(ii) Directions as to Printing the Ballot Paper.

Signed by authority of the Lord President of the Council

Sam Gyimah
Minister for the Constitution
Cabinet Office

30th January 2015

SCHEDULE 1

Rule 2(3)(b)

Amended forms for use at an election of councillors of a parish or community where the poll is not taken together with another election or referendum

Form of front of ballot paper

Election of councillors to *[insert name of parish/ community council]*

* [Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice]
* [Vote for **no more than ___ candidates** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to **each** of your choices]
* *Returning Officer to amend as appropriate.*

BASWRA, Paresh 2 The Cottages, Anytown XY8 9JG **Liberal Democrat**		☐
CRANLEY, Alana 4 The Walk, Anytown XY9 5JJ **Green Party**	Green Party	☐
EDGBASTON, Richard 6 The Heath, Anytown XY4 0BH **The Common Good Party**		☐
GUNNIL-WALKER, Roger 33 The Lane, Anytown XY6 3GD **The Labour Party Candidate**	Labour	☐
SMITH, Catherine Angelina 21 The Grove, Anytown XY2 5JP **Independent**		☐
SMITH, Keith James 3 The Road, Anytown XY3 4JN **The Conservative Party Candidate**	Conservatives	☐
ZANUCK, George Henry 17 The Parade Anytown XY9 5KP **The United Kingdom Independence Party Candidate**	UKIP	☐

Directions as to printing the ballot paper

1. Nothing is to be printed on the ballot paper except in accordance with these directions.

2. So far as is practicable, the arrangements set out in paragraphs 3 to 13 must be observed in the printing of the ballot paper.

3. No word may be printed on the face except:

(a) the heading "Election of councillors to ……..";
(b) within that heading, the name of the parish or community council;
(c) the direction "Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice" or, where more than one candidate is to be elected, "Vote for no more than ..... candidates by putting a cross [X] in the box next to each of your choices";
(d) the particulars of the candidates; and
(e) words forming part of the emblems mentioned at paragraph 10.

4. A box must be printed around:

(a) the heading and name referred to in paragraph 3(a) and (b);
(b) the direction referred to in paragraph 3(c);

and the direction referred to in paragraph 3(c) must be separated from the heading and name referred to in paragraph 3(a) and (b) by a horizontal rule extending across the box.

5. No rule may be printed on the face except:

(a) as part of the box referred to in paragraph 4;
(b) the horizontal rule referred to in that paragraph;
(c) a horizontal rule above the particulars of the first candidate;
(d) horizontal rules separating the particulars of the candidates from one another;
(e) a horizontal rule below the particulars of the last candidate;
(f) as part of the boxes on the right-hand side of the ballot paper where the vote is to be marked.

6. The horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(c), (d) and (e) must be equally spaced and the space between each of them must be a minimum of 2.5 centimetres.

7. The boxes referred to in paragraph 5(f) must not touch any horizontal rule and each one must be equidistant between the horizontal rule above it and the horizontal rule below it.

8. Each of the horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(c) and (d) must extend from a point level with the text on the left-hand side of the page to a point directly above the centre of the box below that rule.

9. The horizontal rule referred to in paragraph 5(e) must:
(a) extend from a point level with the text on the left-hand side of the page to a point directly below the right-hand edge of the box above that rule; and
(b) be thicker than the other horizontal rules.

10. Where a registered emblem is to be printed against a candidate's particulars—
(a) it must be printed adjacent to and to the right of the candidate's particulars; and
(b) its size as printed must not exceed 2 centimetres square.

11. All the words on the front of the ballot paper must appear in the same large type except that—
(a) the heading and name referred to in paragraph 3(a) and (b) must appear in very large and bold type;