Electoral Services Team,
South Norfolk Council,
Cygnet Court
Long Stratton

September 7th 2017

Dear Sir,

With reference to the parish boundary review, our original request is in our proposal letter attached, which is supported by a letter from Alburgh Parish Council.

We wished to once more express our concerns in your consultation period. In September 2016 we received a reply from a request to change the parish boundary from the Local Government Boundary Commission in Turnmill Street London. Paul Kingsley, the Review Adviser, (Paul.kingsley@lgbc.org.uk 0330 500 1275) informed us that ‘the Commission was unable to make amendments to Parish Boundaries as part of the electoral review. The power to do this lies with South Norfolk Council and would need to be carried out as part of a community Governance Review’.

It is our hope that you can address the identity crisis we at present experience.

When we converted the Barn in 2009 we believed we lay in the parish of Alburgh. My Grandfather had been rector of Alburgh in 1899 and my family home was in the village. I now serve on the Alburgh Parochial Church Council and I also am an active member of the Alburgh Parish Council. This has created a problem as I am trustee on several charities in the Village of Alburgh, but I am supposed to be living in the Parish. However only a part of me does for the parish boundary splits the field on which we sit, between Wortwell and Alburgh.

We certainly have no allegiance to Wortwell which lies across the busy A143, it only features in our postal vote and rates which support issues not always relevant to us. Worse still it is now proposed that Wortwell will be part of the Harleston District council with whom we have nothing in common, rather than is now the case, being with Earsham a group of rural parishes.
The parish boundary between Alburgh and Wortwell at present, follows the historic trackway Damson Lane, which features on the enclosures map, for there was once an early medieval settlement on our field. We are asking you to bring us into the 21st century and allow the boundary, instead of dividing our field, to follow the existing road down Burnt Oak lane to its junction with Low Ditch road and then follow this to Stony Lane.

An added bonus with such a change might be delivery drivers, able to deliver goods to our house instead of many going astray.

We are asking for a small change to the parish boundary in the village of Alburgh, where the only residence affected is our Barn. This is in the hopes that we are no longer confused as to our identity, for so often this is defined by one’s residence. It also means that our home will remain firmly in a group of rural parishes, not allied to the urban council of Harleston.

Yours faithfully,
Dear Sir,

With reference to the Parish Boundary review and the possibility of changing these boundaries, we would like to propose a change.

The Alburgh /Wortwell Parish boundary at present dissect our property of Greenland Barn. As we lie close to the village of Alburgh and within sight of the parish Church which we support, could you change the present parish boundary? At present the Alburgh boundary goes across our field. Could you move this to follow the present road layout, thus putting our property fully into Alburgh and no longer Wortwell as well.

Thus our proposed parish boundary would follow Burnt Oak Lane south to the junction with Low Ditch Road, then along Low Ditch road until it meets the junction with Stony Lane.

We have raised this matter at the last Parish Council meeting where our District Councillor Dr Gray was present both on 4th July 2016 and June 2nd 2017. Neither he nor the Parish Council could see any objection, as it only would affect our house.

Yours sincerely,
Good afternoon,

At our parish council meeting last night, Dr. Gray told us about the parish boundary review which was discussed on 15th August and how the move of Greenland Barn from Wortwell to Alburgh could not be changed. We were also told that this was agreed to go into consultation.

We wish to re-iterate that we support this change as per our previous letter of 5th June, 2017. [REDACTED] is a parish councillor in Alburgh and her and her husband support Alburgh with a lot of fund raising, etc. We know they would prefer to be fully in Alburgh and so would the parish councillors.

Jackie Ellis
Clerk to Alburgh parish council
I support this change as the property affected is closer to the centre of Alburgh than to Wortwell which lies on the opposite side of the A143. The current residents have a long association with the parish of Alburgh going back at least 2 generations and feel themselves to be part of the Alburgh community. They have no connection with the parish of Wortwell. Importantly, they wrote to the LGBCE on 2nd August 2016 requesting this change at the time of the Ward boundary review in South Norfolk. The reply from Paul Kingsley dated 6th September 2016 ended with the following: "...the Commission is unable to make amendments to parish boundaries as part of the electoral review. The power to do this lies with the South Norfolk Council and would need to be carried out as part of a Community Governance Review". Yet despite this, there is a question of whether SNC can move properties across new Ward boundaries. This appears to be a Catch 22 situation that needs to be resolved in favour of this minor proposed change. I hope that common sense will prevail.

Murray Gray,
District Councillor for both Wortwell and Alburgh