1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider a request from Bishop Thornton and Warsill Parish Council to rename the Parish Council Bishop Thornton, Shaw Mills and Warsill Parish Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The request to rename the Parish Council of Bishop Thornton and Warsill to Bishop Thornton, Shaw Mills and Warsill Parish Council be approved.

2.2 The necessary notice be published in the Parish to that effect.

2.3 The Secretary of State, the Ordnance Survey, the Office for National Statistics, the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Registrar General be notified accordingly.

3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON FOR DECISION

3.1 Section 75 of the Local Government Act 1972 supplemented by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the District Council to consider such requests. The request has been made by the Parish Council in order to encourage the residents of Shaw Mills to engage with and potentially become Members of the Parish Council.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION/S CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION
4.1 To refuse the request. This option has been rejected as Harrogate Borough Council supports the attempt by the Parish Council to engage more members of the community in local democracy.

5.0 THE REPORT

5.1 A request has been received from Bishop Thornton and Warsill Parish Council seeking to change the name of the Parish Council to Bishop Thornton, Shaw Mills and Warsill Parish Council.

5.2 The Parish Council has a membership of six and is grouped, which is where a number of smaller parishes come together under one parish council. The Parish Council covers two parishes:
   - Parish of Warsill – returns 1 councillor
   - Parish of Bishop Thornton – returns 5 councillors

   The village of Shaw Mills lies mostly within the parish of Bishop Thornton. The Parish Council are however only requesting a change of name for the Parish Council, not the parish. Therefore if the change of name is approved, the Parish name will remain the same but the Parish Council name will be renamed Bishop Thornton, Shaw Mills and Warsill. This will have no impact on any electoral arrangements.

5.3 The rationale for the change offered by the Parish Council is that the Parish Council has struggled to maintain its membership in recent months. In November 2018, Harrogate Borough Council had to invoke the power to temporarily appoint the ward member, Councillor Margaret Atkinson, to sit on the Parish Council in order for it to be quorate. Since then the Parish Council has tried to co-opt residents onto the Council but this has not been successful. It is hoped that by including the village of Shaw Mills in the title of the Parish Council, it will encourage residents to take ownership of the local democracy arrangements in their area and therefore encourage them to join the Parish Council.

5.4 The matter has been discussed at the Parish Council meeting and attached at Appendix 1 is an email from the clerk formally requesting the change of name. The clerk has also provided the relevant extract from the minutes of the Parish Council of 5 February 2019, which are attached at Appendix 2, where it was resolved that the name be changed.

5.5 No objections had been raised by the North Yorkshire County Council Member and the Harrogate Borough Council member.

6.0 REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The following were considered: Financial Implications; Human Resources Implications; Legal Implications; ICT Implications; Strategic Property/Asset Management Considerations; Risk Assessment; Equality and Diversity (the Public Sector Equality Duty and impact upon people with protected characteristics). If applicable, the outcomes of any consultations, assessments, considerations and implications considered necessary during preparation of this report are detailed below.
7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Committee is obliged to consider the request from Bishop Thornton and Warsill Parish Council to change its name to Bishop Thornton, Shaw Mills and Warsill Parish Council.

Background Papers – None

Appendix 1 – Request of Change of Name from the Clerk
Appendix 2 – Parish Council Minute

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Samantha Stonebanks, Democratic Services Officer, if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Democratic Services, Legal and Governance, PO Box 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW, 01423 500600 or by e-mail – samantha.stonebanks@harrogate.gov.uk