

REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 14 January 2011)

1. INCREASE IN NUMBERS ON EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (REPORT E) (MINUTE NO. 39)

The Committee has, over a period of 9 months, been consulting on and considering a request from East Boldre Parish Council to increase the number of members on the parish council from 5 to 7. The Committee is, and has been during the course of its consideration, of the view that the Parish Council has advanced good reasons for seeking an increase in their numbers. Full reasons for the Parish Council seeking the increase are set out in Report E to the Committee, but, to summarise, the Parish Council –

- Sometimes experiences difficulty in having a quorum at meetings when councillors are on holiday, are ill, or have prejudicial interests in matters such as, for example, the allotment gardens; and
- Wishes to expand its services to the community in areas such as the parish plan, amenities for the parish, development of the parish newsletter and the website.

For the information of members of the Council, East Boldre has 694 electors. National averages for the size of parish councils are:

- Less than 500 electors – between 5 and 8 Councillors
- Between 501 and 2,500 electors – between 6 and 12 Councillors.

During consultation on the proposal only one response, which opposed the proposal, was received – this was on the grounds that the increase in numbers was not warranted and that most councillors would be co-opted rather than elected. East Boldre Parish Council has confirmed that, despite the representation received, it wishes to proceed with the increase. The Committee considers that the request by the Parish Council is reasonable and is satisfied that the increase in numbers will assist community governance in the area.

RECOMMENDED:

(a) That, as the Council is satisfied that an increase in numbers on the Parish Council will –

- ***reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area; and***
- ***be effective and convenient;***

final proposals and recommendations to increase the number of Councillors on East Boldre Parish Council from 5 to 7 be published and that steps be taken to ensure that those who may have an interest are informed of them;

(b) That, following the steps in paragraph (a) above, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make a Reorganisation Order to give effect to paragraph (a) above.

Councillor L R Puttock
CHAIRMAN