

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE – 10 SEPTEMBER 2010

INCREASE IN NUMBERS ON EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (CGR)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 11 September 2009 the Committee agreed to a request from East Boldre Parish Council to undertake a CGR of the Parish Council with a view to increasing the numbers of members from 5 to 7. The terms of reference for the review were agreed as:
- (1) To review the number of members on the East Boldre Parish Council in the light of the Parish Council's request to increase the numbers from 5 to 7 with a view to implementing any changes that might be agreed with effect from the next quadrennial elections in May 2011.
 - (2) That the review be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and any statutory guidance.
- 1.2 East Boldre Parish Council's reasons for their request are shown at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Publication of the review was delayed until East Boldre Parish Council distributed its parish newsletter in June 2010. An article was prepared for the newsletter, inviting comments on the proposal. The review was also published on the Council's website. As is required by law, Hampshire County Council was advised of the review.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval to move onto the next stage of the review, namely to publish draft proposals.

2. RESPONSES/GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 No responses were received to the invitation for initial submissions.
- 2.2 The Committee is reminded that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council, when undertaking a CGR, to aim to ensure that community governance in the area under review
- reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area
 - is effective and convenient

In addition, amongst other things, the following must be considered:

- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- representations received following consultation with local people and any other person or body (including the Parish Council) who appears to have an interest in the review.

4. EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL - SIZE

4.1 The request is to increase the size of the Parish Council from 5 to 7. There is no formal guidance on the size of parish councils, but the minimum number, laid down in legislation, is 5. The Department of Communities and Local Government advises that, nationally, local councils representing the following electorates typically have the number of councillors stated:

- Less than 500 - between 5 and 8 councillors
- Between 501 and 2,500 - between 6 and 12 councillors

4.2 East Boldre has 709 electors. As indicated in the report to the Committee in September 2009, the request appears reasonable. Notwithstanding the fact that no representations have been received, it is recommended that the Committee proceeds to the next stage of the review, that is to publish draft proposals.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Subject to the Committee's agreement, the draft proposals must be published. The manner in which this must be done is not prescriptive, but, in view of the fact that there were no responses to the request for initial views, it appears that this is a matter which does not excite much interest in local residents. It is suggested that publishing be via the Council's website, and erecting notices on the parish council's notice boards.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Resources involved will be mainly officer time. There will be minimal cost if the recommendations relating to publicity are followed.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

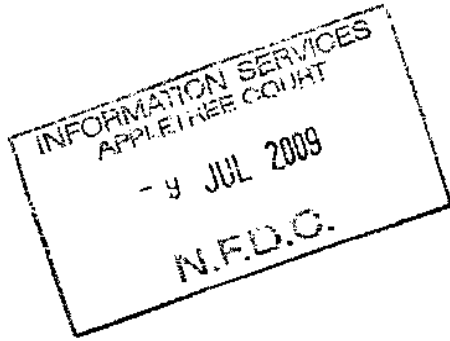
8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That draft proposals to increase the number of members on East Boldre Parish Council from 5 to 7 be published; and

8.2 That the matter be further considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

Further information:
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Background Papers:
Published documents



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 SO41 5RX

7th July, 2009

Dear Ms. Rutins,

Further to our recent e-mails and telephone conversations, I am writing to respectfully request that the New Forest District Council consider favourably, a formal application by East Boldre Parish Council to increase the number of councillors for East Boldre Parish Council from 5 to 7.

East Boldre Parish Council are mindful that they need to achieve effective and convenient local government and feel that this can only be possible if the number of members is increased. Currently, with only 5 members it is insufficient to cover the number of projects which East Boldre Parish Council wishes to undertake and several have had to be shelved as we cannot allocate a small committee or even an individual to the projects.

The current council would like to increase the facilities offered to their electorate and indeed, have just taken on some Allotment Gardens which require a considerable amount of attention just by themselves as they have, for some time been under the supervision of a volunteer team and were not kept in the best order. This has necessitated the appointment of a dedicated member of the council to ensure they will be brought up to a good standard.

E.B.P.C., would also like to have dedicated members for the formulation of the Parish Plan, amenities for the parish, developing parish events to enhance community spirit, obtaining grants, affordable housing and the publication of the parish newsletter and website. In addition to this, E.B.P.C. still are mindful that they need to give the necessary attention to highways, the NPA Plans, NFDC Plans and Projects, planning and general improvement of the quality of life for their parishioners.

Holidays present a problem for E.B.P.C., as there can sometimes be insufficient members to make up a quorum and meetings have to be cancelled. In addition, there is the problem of illness which has necessitated on occasion, council to cancel meetings, this would not be necessary if we increased our allotted number of councillors. EBPC need to increase the number of councillors in order to ensure they are able to offer the required effective and convenient local government that it deserves and which central government are encouraging.

I do hope that you will take the above points into consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. C.M. Howe
 Clerk's Office,
 East Boldre Parish Council

Ms. R. Rutins,
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 Hampshire.