

14 NOVEMBER 2014

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Friday, 14 November 2014.

p Cllr G C Beck (Chairman)
p Cllr W H Dow (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

ap Mrs S V Beeton
p S J Clarke
p J D Heron
ap A N G Kilgour
p Mrs A E McEvoy
p Mrs M McLean
p J Penwarden

Councillors:

ap L R Puttock
p R F Scrivens
p S S Wade
p Mrs C V Ward
ap P R Woods
ap Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

Mrs R Rutins, Ms M Stephens, P Weston and R Woods

Also in attendance:

Ms L Burtenshaw for Minute 18

15. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made by members in connection with an agenda item.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Ms Burtenshaw for Minute 18.

18. INCREASE IN NUMBERS ON ELLINGHAM, HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (REPORT A)

Ms Burtenshaw, the Chairman of Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council, addressed the Committee to request that the Committee proceed with the Community Governance Review (CGR) with a view to increasing the membership of the Parish Council from 8 to 10. The workload of the Parish Council had increased and additional members were needed to deal effectively with these additional pressures.

Whilst the Parish Council had a number of experienced and committed members, the Chairman of the Parish Council felt that younger members, with knowledge of modern technology and fresh views, would help the Council move forward and at the same time ensure that the views of residents were adequately represented.

In addressing the views of the two respondents who were opposed to the Parish Council's request, Ms Burtenshaw said that the limited attendance of residents at Parish Council meetings showed that residents were satisfied with the way the Parish Council operated. She also confirmed that the number of planning applications considered by the Parish's Planning Committee had increased. Ms Burtenshaw reported that she knew of six residents who had expressed interest in serving on the Parish Council. She urged the Committee to agree to the increase in numbers on the Parish Council.

Members were reminded that on 19 September 2014 the Committee had considered a request from the Parish Council to undertake a CGR with a view to increasing the number on the Parish Council from 8 to 10. The Committee had had some reservations about the Parish Council's ability to fill the additional places requested, but had agreed to assess residents' views as the first stage of a CGR. The review had been published on the District Council's website, and consultation had been undertaken with local residents. Thirteen responses had been received, eleven supporting the proposals and two against an increase.

In speaking against the request of the Parish Council, some members pointed out that historically the Parish Council had experienced difficulty filling places on the Council. While they welcomed the information provided by Ms Burtenshaw that there were sufficient residents willing to serve, they were concerned that this interest might not be sustained. The fact that so few elections had been held in the recent past was of concern in a democratic society. Elections provided challenge and offered choice to the electorate. Additionally, the poor response to the consultation could not be seen as resounding support for the proposed increase.

Other members spoke in support of the requested increase. They felt that the Parish Council was best placed to judge how many councillors were needed to carry out the Parish Council's functions effectively. Despite the limited response to the consultation, the majority of those who had responded supported an increase.

Having considered the matter, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That draft proposals to increase the number of members on Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council from 8 to 10 be published; and

- (b) That the matter be further considered by the Committee at its meeting in January 2015.

Action: Rosemary Rutins

19. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS (REPORT B)

The Committee considered a proposed change to the scheme of delegations to officers relating to the Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the following delegation to officers be approved:

Source	Power Delegated	Delegation To
Gambling Act 2005 s.304	To be authorised persons for the purposes of the Act	Head of Public Health and Community Safety, or Environmental Health Manager, or Licensing Officer, or Licensing Enforcement Officer

Action: Paul Weston/Jan Debnam

CHAIRMAN

(GPL141114)