

Minutes of the Parish Council Annual Assembly meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 8.00pm in the East Boldre Village Hall.

Present :

Cllr B Mulhall (Chairman)

Cllr B Hawker

Cllr D Drodge

Cllr I Moyses

Cllr M Husband

In attendance: - Mrs Nicola Curzon; Parish Clerk, one member of the public and representatives from: HARAHA, English Rural Housing Association and NPA.

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Holmes.

**3. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th March 2018 were accepted and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

**4. Chairman's Report to the Parish Electors.**

It has been another eventful year for the parish council. Cllr Sterling resigned last year due to work pressures. His commitment to this parish council was very much appreciated.

The allotments continue to have a presence on the parish council agenda, with some planned changes over the next year this will be reduced. They will continue to flourish and are enjoyed by the many villagers who use them. The allotments association is having it's annual 'Taste of East Boldre' in September which showcases the produce and community aspect of the association. Please come along and support this event.

Planning applications are an important part of the parish council agenda. Over the last year the parish council has considered 18 planning applications.

Parish councillors attend external meetings on behalf of residents, always bringing any issues that may affect East Boldre back to the parish council. Cllr Mulhall has regularly attended meetings regarding public transport (or the lack of) within the village. Cllr Hawker attends the South East Quadrant meeting set up by the New Forest National Park Authority which keeps the parish council up to date with issues like the developments on the waterside and the adoption of the local plan. Cllr Holmes attends the New Forest Consultative Panel which discusses issue that may have an impact on the New Forest. In September, councillors met Nick Wardlaw and Jayne Allbery to discuss the proposed HLS verge restoration scheme for East Boldre. In October Cllr Drodge attended a meeting about invasive non-native plants. All councillors attended a meeting with HARAHA (Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing) NPA and NFDC: Land has been offered in East Boldre for the development of two or three dwellings with parking. HARAHA approached the council to show them the proposed site along with proposed plans for the development.

Councillor training Training was undertaken, not only for East Boldre councillors, but for those in neighbouring parishes.

Cllr Hawker set up CPR and basic first aid training for 14 residents. All those who received training have now volunteered for the Volunteer Emergency Telephone System (VETS). This system will allow the ambulance service to speak to an East Boldre volunteer, who may then be required to take the defibrillator to a specific location in East Boldre. Further first aid

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training events have now been planned for the end of March and April. Cllr Drodge has kindly been testing the defibrillator each week and registering the checks with Community Heart Beat. These regular checks are registered with the ambulance service and this gives assurance that the defibrillator is in perfect working order.

Cllr Hawker and Mike Upton hosted a very successful Emergency Planning evening which was attended by 19 residents in January. A risk assessment has now been created and a working party of seven residents established, to finalise the local emergency plan. 13 residents who attended the evening also volunteered to help in the case of a village emergency.

This year the clerk has made 28 posts on social media, reaching over 15,000 people.

I would like to thank all our councillors, on behalf of East Boldre residents, for their hard work and commitment, which is done on a voluntary basis.

**5. A presentation by HARAHA, English Rural Housing and NFNPA.**

Further to a call out for land suitable for development of rural affordable housing in East Boldre, Beverley Harding-Rennie led a presentation. This is available to [download](#) on the parish council website.

**6. Questions from residents and Parish Council to HARAHA, English Rural Housing and NFNPA.**

A small plot in East Boldre has been made available to HARAHA for exploration for the potential development of rural affordable housing. This plot would allow a small development of two or three properties and would not fulfil all the affordable housing needs for the village. Ownership of the development would be held by English Rural Housing, the affordable housing would never be 'lost' through the sale of the properties.

The council asked for clarification about the location policy for rural affordable housing development and were told that in a small rural village, the development must be in close-proximity of facilities such as public transport links and shops. Cllr Mulhall expressed concerns about the lack of public transport in East Boldre.

Cllr Hawker also asked if Strawberry Fields could be explored as a possible site for development. HARAHA informed the council that although they have emailed the Beaulieu Estate with a call out for land, they have not received a response. The clerk agreed to contact Rachael Pearson, Beaulieu Estate Manager to see if they might consider the development of this land for rural affordable housing. Action NC

On questions about the definition of affordable rent, the council was told: The development of affordable housing offers properties for rent at 80% of the market rental value and not exceeding the local housing allowance -for East Boldre this is currently:

Shared Accommodation Rate: **£67.50 per week**, One Bedroom Rate: **£116.53 per week**, Two Bedrooms Rate: **£156.38 per week**, Three Bedrooms Rate: **£184.49 per week**, Four Bedrooms Rate: **£242.40 per week**.

The council was told that there are currently 11 people on the list looking for rented affordable housing in East Boldre. Of them, 5 people are currently looking for One Bedroom flats, 4 for Two Bedroom properties and 2 for Three Bedroom properties. The housing would only be available to people with a connection to the village. For more information about this please see: [New Forest Homesearch rural allocation factsheet](#). Affordable housing is open to anyone of any age and does not exclude elderly people who may want to

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move to East Boldre to be close to family. The development of rural affordable housing in East Boldre would be developed to fulfil the current need for housing. If in future the properties cannot be filled by people with direct connections with the village, the properties would become available to those in neighbouring villages.

Following questions about the NPA exclusion zone, the council was told that although East Boldre is in an SPA (special protected area), the 400m exclusion zone does not apply to the development of affordable housing. The NFNPA did however note that the leases for such properties may prohibit cat ownership (which could interfere with ground nesting birds on the open forest).

The Parish Council recognises the need for affordable housing and will consider support for HARA to explore the provision of affordable housing in East Boldre at the parish council meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.