

EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Annual Assembly meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 8.30 pm in the East Boldre Village Hall.

Present :

Cllr B Mulhall (Chairman)

Cllr D Drodge
Cllr B Gregory
Cllr M Sterling
Cllr H Green
Cllr M Gregory

In attendance: -Mrs K Penna; Parish Clerk.

1. Welcome by Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr K Holmes.

3. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th March 2016 were accepted and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

4. Chairman's Report to the Parish Electors

This annual meeting is one that we, as a Parish Council, are required to hold, to review for residents what we do on their behalf. We have some statutory duties and, beyond these, we believe we have a role in fostering the community.

Among the statutory duties, we are consulted for our views on planning matters - whether for building works, of which there were 17 or so in the past year, or tree works, of which there were rather more. We were also invited to comment on the New Forest National Park's Draft Local Plan. Our response was to welcome the proposal for affordable housing, to help local people remain within their home area, but pointed out that this was unrealistic in villages, such as ours, unless the services and infrastructure could also be improved. In addition, we attended meetings of organisations such as the South-East Quadrant, the New Forest Association of Local Councils, the Passenger Transport Forum and the New Forest Consultative Panel.

As far as the community is concerned we are a little unusual for a small village in having two village halls - the one we are meeting in and the School Fields Trust. Although the Parish Council has no formal responsibility for either we do regard them as valuable assets of the village. There is the annual Fireworks Display at the School Fields. Other organisations, such

Chairman's signature:

Date:

as Cruse Bereavement New Forest and New Forest Disability also benefit residents of the Parish. We made grants totalling some £1300 over the year to these good causes.

Additionally, in conjunction with the Allotment Association we supported the very successful "A Taste of East Boldre" event and intend to do so again this coming September.

Other significant contributions to the well-being of the community must be mentioned. One is the Defibrillator, installed in the telephone kiosk which was adopted by the Parish Council for the purpose and for which funds were raised. The final contribution was a grant from Scottish & Southern Energy. Another is the Lengthsman scheme, of which we are members, along with Brockenhurst, Sway and Boldre Parishes. The work undertaken included painting of the telephone kiosk, clearing of unused allotments, hedge cutting and general maintenance work.

One of our main battles has been to obtain a better broadband service in the village. One of your Councillors, Howard Green, has been particularly active, as have some of our residents and our County Councillor, Ken Thornber. I cannot report success yet, but progress is now clearly being made.

Finally, and partly on a personal note, I am pleased that the Council now has several members who are both much younger than I and have a longer association with this corner of the Forest. Also, with this meeting, we say goodbye to our County Councillor, Ken Thornber, who is standing down in May. We thank him for all his work over many years on our behalf.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: