

**EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.00 pm in the East Boldre Village Hall.

**Present:**

Cllr Mr K Holmes Chairman  
Cllr B Mulhall Vice Chairman

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

In attendance – Cllr K Thornber, County Councillor; Cllr M Harris, District Councillor; Mrs K Penna, Parish Clerk and thirteen residents.

**1.0. To accept apologies for absence**

Cllr M Gregory.

**2.0. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda**

Cllr Sterling and Cllr Drodge declared an interest in items 10.1. Cllr Holmes and Cllr Drodge declared an interest in items 11.2. and 11.3.

**3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

The minutes were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

**4.0. Public session**

A member of the public reported potholes in Cripplegate Lane and a missing fingerpost in the same lane. Another member of the public asked if the council would give views on a future planning application he is considering making. Chairman informed the resident it was not possible for the council to comment on an application that had not yet been made. Another resident said they were attending the meeting to receive an update on the broadband in the parish.

**5.0. Clerks' report**

**5.1.** The clerk has been approached by two Boldre residents about any interest there may be in an amateur dramatics group in East Boldre. They would be interested in getting involved in starting a group and putting on productions in East Boldre.

**5.2.** The Lengthsman has completed the allotment hedging and the clerk considers he has done a very good job. Whilst working on the hedging, he was approached by a resident who lives opposite the allotment site one, and asked not to cut the hedging as low as he did last year. The Lengthsman informed the resident that they must speak with the clerk on the matter. The clerk heard nothing from the resident.

**5.3.** Community Heartbeat have called today to say that the phone kiosk has been adopted. They have also advised the clerk that full funding for defibrillators and emergency phones etc is now available from Southern Electric. He suggested the council made an application as SE are keen to spend £1M on defibrillators for rural areas as soon as possible and that they would cover all costs.

5.4. The clerk will be attending all four of the National Park Planning training courses and will be able to feed back information to the council.

5.5. The internal audit date has been set for June 9<sup>th</sup>.

5.6. The clerk received a phone call from a resident who was enquiring about the new fence erected along the highway outside The Mill House. They noted that the fence was outside the original fence line. NFNPA believed this to be HCC work but HCC confirmed that the work had been undertaken privately. NFNPA then said there was no enforcement issue as the height of the fence was acceptable.

5.7. A commemorative coin for the Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday has been received by the council with a form on how to order more.

5.8. Councillors should have received the Information received list and pending list. If there are any items on either for which they require more information please advise the clerk.

**6.0. To receive a report by County Councillor for East Boldre**

Cllr Thornber said that with reference to the issues in Cripplegate Lane raised by the resident, he would enquire to whether these items were on the HCC works list.

Cllr Thornber told the meeting that Hampshire County Council had agreed on a council tax increase of 3.99% after a loss of £48m in government grants. 2% of this is earmarked for social care.

Cllr Thornber has granted £1000.00 of his member's budget to East Boldre Village Hall.

Cllr Thornber informed the council that he had an update on the situation of broadband in the parish. The Chairman gave permission for item 12.0. to be discussed at this point in the meeting.

An alternative site for a broadband cabinet has been identified in East Boldre and HCC are currently awaiting a quotation for this site from BT Openreach. Cllr Thornber outlined that a budget of £300.00 per household is allocated for superfast broadband with flexibility to increase to £476.00. There are 11 disputed cabinets in the New Forest leading to 7 square metres of grazing land being needed in mitigation to the Verderers, in line with the Act of 1860.

Cllr Barry Gregory raised the issue of possible encroachment of grazing land in the parish.

**7.0. To receive a report by District Councillor for East Boldre**

Cllr Harris told the meeting that New Forest District Council had agreed a 1.7% increase in council tax.

Cllr Harris asked that the discussion of pony safe litter bins in the parish be delayed as the NFDC representative responsible for these is currently on leave.

Cllr Harris congratulated the clerk on her new position as clerk to Denny Lodge Parish Council.

**8.0. To receive a report from the Allotment Representative**

The allotment representative for site one informed the council that following inspections at the site, everything was in good order. She acknowledged that other items for discussion would be covered later in the agenda.

**9.0. Finance**

**9.1. To agree payments in accordance with the budget and to note bank reconciliation.**

**Resolved:** Payments agreed as shown on table below, income and bank reconciliation noted.

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Payment</i>
<b>Payments 08/03/16</b>			
K Penna(Paid K Wright)	100511	Salary	£597.13
K Penna(Paid K Wright)	100512	Expenses	£106.70
Kevin Bennett	100513	Hedging	£462.00
NAS	100514	Membership	£99.00
<b>Total to pay</b>			<b><u>£1264.83</u></b>
<b>Amount to be transferred to current account</b>			<b><u>£2300.00</u></b>
		<b>Receipts</b>	
<b>Source</b>		<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
HSBC bank		Interest	£1.06
<b>Total income</b>			<b><u>£1.06</u></b>
<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>			
<b>Balance as at 08/03/16</b>			
HSBC Current			£264.24
HSBC Savings			£20,769.47
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>£21,033.71</u></b>
<b>Net bank balance as at 08/03/16</b>			
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows			
Opening balances	14,862.38		
Add receipts	16,917.84		
Less payments	11,093.51		
Less unclear cheque	347.00		
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>£21,033.71</u></b>

**9.2. To consider opting out of external audits for smaller councils.**

Councils with a turnover of less than £25,000.00 were given the option to opt out of external audit. An SLCC member had stated that the process of opting out of the external audit takes approximately 200 hours.

**Resolved:** Council agreed to continue with external auditing.

**9.3. To consider the costs of purchasing a microphone for council meetings.**

Due to the noise from the heating system in the village hall it was felt that it would be useful to have a system which would increase the volume of speakers.

**Resolved:** Council agreed to the purchase of a conference microphone system at the cost of £57.00. **ACTION KP**

**9.4. To consider grant applications from East Boldre Football Club and Village Hall.**

The application from the Football Club had not been received.

**Resolved:** The application will be considered at a future meeting.

The village hall committee would like to purchase portable exhibition display case to promote the heritage of East Boldre.

**Resolved:** The council agreed to give a grant to the Village Hall for the display case but it was suggested that the council purchase the display case in order to claim back the VAT. The

clerk will consult with the Village Hall Committee on the matter and bring the item back to the next meeting.

**ACTION KP**

**9.5. To confirm the clerk’s pay and agreed hours.**

**Resolved:** The clerk’s pay was confirmed as NJC LGS Point 23 (£10.60) and the agreed hours are 13 per week.

**10.0. Planning.**

**10.1. To consider planning applications 16/00043 21 Sweyns Lease; 16/00054 4 Warton Close; 16/00099 The Wheelhouse.**

**Resolved:** Planning application resolved as shown on the schedule below.

16/00043 K McIntyre	21 Sweyns Lease, East Boldre, Brockenhurst. SO42 7WQ	Two storey extension; porch; roof lights and sun tunnel velux.	Comment 1
16/00054 D Slade	4 Warton Close, East Boldre, Brockenhurst.	Two storey front extension.	Comment 5 – The council raised concerns about extension front positioning and its impact on parking.

16/00099 The Wheelhouse is an application for a Certificate of Lawful Development so no comment is necessary.

**10.2. To consider tree work applications 16/0112 Under The Rails; 16/0111 Summerfield; 16/0170 6 Warton Close.**

**Resolved:** No comments.

**11.0. Amenities**

**11.1. To consider changes to allotment rules.**

**Resolved:** Reviewed allotment rules agreed.

**11.2. To receive an update on plans and costs to clear vacant plots at allotment site one.**

The Lengthsman has given an approximate price of £1350.00 to clear the two whole vacant plots, trim and prune trees. This does not include rubbish removal or stump clearance. Cllr Sterling has approached the clerk with a plan to aid the clearance and save the council money. This could be combined with new plot holders being offered rent free plots for clearance.

Bruce and Ruth McDermott have offered to undertake some clearance on the vacant plot adjacent to theirs. The clerk will also organise a works party to help with clearance.

It has been suggested that a small vacant area between existing plots be turned into a community area. A shed on one of the vacated plots could make a good starter community shed with a little work.

The clerk has looked at plot number 1 and 2 on site one and suggest these are made into one plot as they are very narrow. An area for parking could be created at the gate end to assist with preventing cars from parking on the forest.

A Facebook request for new plot holders has been very successful. The clerk met with one new holder yesterday who would like to take on a half plot. There is interest from four other parties so far and the clerk has arranged to meet them all this week.

**Resolved:** As there will be some financial costs involved in Cllr Sterling’s offer of clearance, the item will be brought back to the next meeting with formal quotations. **ACTION KP**

**11.3. To receive and discuss the costs of running the allotments.**

Councillors received the costs of running East Boldre allotment sites over the last nine years. Some councillors had raised concerns that the running of the allotments was being subsidised by council funds.

A discussion on the matter followed between the council and the allotment representatives. It was suggested that the costings of the allotments was inaccurate as it included costs which were in question.

It was noted however that it is the council's statutory obligation to provide allotments. The Forestry Commission lease has approximately 15 years left and that the council are therefore committed to this rent, or a probably costly exit fee. Council is also responsible to keep hedging and fencing in good order according to the lease.

It is however important to monitor the allotment costs and find ways to make the allotments run as efficiently as possible.

**Resolved:** The clerk will research how other councils manage their allotment costs and the item will be brought back to the next agenda for further discussion. **ACTION KP**  
The allotment costing table is attached to the back of the minutes.

**12.0. To receive an update on Superfast Broadband in the parish.**

Item discussed at 6.0.

**13.0. To discuss new rubbish bins for the parish.**

**Resolved:** Deferred to future meeting.

**14.0. To consider articles for the next newsletter.**

**Resolved:** Drama Group, ToEB 2016 (inc. Bake-off and Scarecrow Festival), Hedgehog Rescue, Village Halls, and Allotments. **ACTION KP**

**15.0. To discuss arrangement of the next councillors surgery.**

**Resolved:** It was agreed that Councillor Harris and Councillor Holmes will undertake another village surgery in another part of the parish. This will be arranged by the clerk. **ACTION KP**

**16.0. To receive reports from external meetings.**

**16.1. Devolution meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February organised by SLCC in Winchester – attended by the clerk.**

- Government is looking at Welsh assembly which is looking at amalgamation of Community Councils to see how this works before looking at this for England.
- James Strachan from HCC gave an outline on Devolution. He said that from the Government's point of view it was the right thing to do as devolving powers and money down to local areas would make services fully accountable and encourage economic growth.
- A lot was said about the Hampshire and IOW bid for devolution but in short it is uncertain whether it will be accepted as HIOW are not prepared to agree to government demands of 100,000 houses in next 10 years, or to a Mayor which is one of the other requirements. They have offered 80,000 homes in a shorter time than 10 years. They are sceptical of the costs and bureaucracy of having a mayor, particularly in such a diverse area.
- New powers will be needed to designate building on greenbelt sites which is what is being put forward.

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- Consequence of this is that Neighbourhood Plans will need to be reassessed over the next 10 years. National Parks have said they are willing to relax some of their planning policies as a percentage of the house building will take place within NPs
- Although no specifics were given, Parish Councils will be expected to work more closely with County and District. The only example given was of the Lengthsman Scheme.

**17.0. Agenda items for next meeting.**

**Resolved:** Broadband update; new rubbish bins for the parish; allotment costs. **ACTION KP**

**18.0. To confirm date of the next meeting of East Boldre Parish Council.**

Confirmed as Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.00 pm in East Boldre Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**East Boldre Parish Council**

**Allotments costs by financial year**

	2007-08	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
<b>Income</b>						1,61	1,56	1,52	1,65	
Rents	507	507	1,279	1,554	1,573	5	4	6	1	
Refund allot assoc	-	-	216	-	-	-	-			
Grants	-	-	-	850	2,749	-	-			
<b>Total</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>4,322</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Exp</b>										
Rent	507	507	563	535	553	553	553	553	595	
Lease arrangement.										
Registration	-	460	-	50	-	-	-			
Tenants insurance	-	-	123	75	69	74	74	74	77	
NSALG membership	-	-	0	60	70	70	70	68	70	
Tenant refund	-	-	18	-	-	-	-			
Hedging	-	400	-	960	650	820	920	550	162	After Lengthsman amount deducted
Fencing	104	-	-	5,602	4,725	945	-	2,14	4	One further side to do
Maintenance	400	-	-	610	356	195	-	364	300	Between fences-clearance
Water payment N/K to allot assoc	87	-	-	-	849	-	-			
	600	-	-	-	-	-	-			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>7,892</b>	<b>7,272</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,75</b>	<b>1,20</b>	
<b>Income-expenditure</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>-860</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>-5,488</b>	<b>-2,950</b>	<b>1,04</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>2,22</b>	<b>7</b>
										<b>447</b>