

**EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in East Boldre Village Hall on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7pm

**Present:**

Chair - Cllr B Hawker  
Cllr R Gabzdyl  
Cllr L Clark

Cllr M Husband  
Cllr K Holmes

In attendance – Mrs Nicola Curzon, Parish Clerk; Cllr Mans, County Councillor; Cllr Harris, District Councillor; Sammy Fraser, Forestry England; two members of the public.

**1.0. To accept apologies for absence.**

Cllr Drodge, Cllr Moyse

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

Cllr Hawker, Cllr Gabzdyl, Cllr Holmes, Cllr Husband and Cllr Clark declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.2. (For further information please see rule 3.7b of East Boldre Parish Council Code of Conduct)

**3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

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

**3.1. Matters arising from the minutes**

1. The NFNPA planning consultation is now on their website. Cllr Hawker has formed a working party to compile a formal response to NFNPA.
2. A welcome pack for new East Boldre residents has been circulated to councillors for approval.
3. Cllr Husband raised the issue of the caravan parked in a garden on Sweyns Lease. Cllr Harris confirmed that the matter is being dealt with by NFDC.
4. Cllr Clark invited Sammy Fraser (Community Manager for Forestry England) to the meeting to answer questions about Hatchet Pond:
  - Increased staff: 3 permanent Rangers, 6 Seasonal Rangers, 6 keepers, 2 apprenticeship Rangers
  - Planning Application for moving carpark will be submitted in near future (work will not happen over the summer period)
  - Toilet block has been removed – surrounding area is being monitored
  - Encouraging visitors to stay for no more than 2-3 hrs
  - New signage has been installed including new “welcome gateways” which enforce rules ie no swimming, no bbq.
  - Interpretation signage will be installed when car park is moved. These will include pictorial symbols for foreign visitors.
  - Signs to reduce verge parking have been introduced
  - Seasonal Rangers will rotate daily around Hotspot sites (including Hatchet Pond) They hope to spend 2hrs at each site, talking to visitors.
  - Volunteer Rangers now recruited for the summer season.
  - Pop up sites encouraging visitors to talk to Forestry England staff.
  - MOU – joint volunteering with Hampshire Fire and Rescue – talking to visitors about risk of BBQ.
  - Licence for Ice Cream van at Hatchet Pond will not be renewed when it expires.
  - NFNPA Cycle Network – encouraging people to walk/cycle rather than drive to locations such as Hatchet Pond.
  - Sammy Fraser is leaving Forestry England but will be replaced by Charlotte Belcher.

Cllr Clark thanked Sammy for her time and asked if it would be possible to have a clear sign saying No Toilet in this Car Park.

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**4.0. Clerks' report (Circulated) FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- Agar forms have been sent to PKF Littlejohn and the external audit is now in progress.
- The parish council arranged a very successful meeting for allotment holders, minutes have been circulated to allotment holders and councillors.
- The Lengthsman has scheduled work for the allotments and football pitch posts. The clerk has also asked for his advice on the size of notice board suitable for installing in the bus shelter at East End.
- Tree work application cons/21/0360 was submitted too late for agenda publication but was circulated to councillors. The application states that replanting will take place once trees are felled, the council was happy to accept the NFNPA decision on this.

**5.0. To receive a report by County Councillor for East Boldre. FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- Cllr Mans told the council that he attended his first cabinet meeting in 15 months, and those things are slowly getting back to "normal".
- When restrictions lift next Monday, Cllr Mans will continue to wear a mask in crowded indoor spaces.
- The County Council will continue to offer flexible working for staff members. 2000 staff are employed by HCC in Winchester, currently only 100-150 are working in the council offices. Flexible working will be encouraged for the next two years.
- HCC has again increased the funds spent on the elderly and those with special educational needs.
- More funds have been made available for road repairs.
- Increased Covid cases have forced the closure of a Hampshire Primary School, it is likely that more schools may have to close before the summer holidays.
- HCC has a £1.2million climate emergency scheme – this will include tree planting and solar panels on school rooves.
- HCC is aiming for 0 carbon 2050, leading the way amongst all county councils.
- They aim to make all public buildings carbon neutral
- HCC has again offered £1.2 million match funding for those buying into the broadband scheme.
- Cllr Mans £8000 devolved budget for this financial year is now open for applications, he offered a grant of £1000 to East Boldre Community Shop.

**5.1. to receive questions on the County Council report.**

Cllr Husband asked for Cllr Mans support over the recent issues faced by Open Reach over Natural England objections to installation of broadband boxes in East Boldre (which is causing further delays to the broadband program for the village). Cllr Husband will email full details of the issues to Cllr Mans. **Action MH**

**6.0. To receive a report by District Councillor for East Boldre. FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- Cllr Harris asked if he could present his ideas about affordable housing options in Sweyns Lease to the parish council at a future parish council meeting.
- NFDC has now spent Government ARG funds, a further £1.4 million has now been allocated to help business in the New Forest who fell outside government grant funding, as well as those who want to grow new businesses.
- NFDC will promote flexible working for the next 12 months (when this will be reviewed)
- NFDC has initiated a High Street Project, supporting the local economy and offering online events for local businesses and shop owners.
- Cllr Harris offered £300 from his devolved budget for East Boldre Community Shop.

**6.1. To receive questions on the District Councillor report.**

None

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**7.0. Finance.**

7.1 To receive payments in accordance with the budget and to note bank reconciliation. (Circulated)

**Resolved:** Payments for July 2021 were received as shown on the table below:

<b>East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Folio</b>	<b>trans</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
22/06/2021	Bournemouth water	allotment 2 water Nov-May	20	bacs	£8.11
22/06/2021	Do the numbers	Internal audit	21	bacs	£240.00
28/06/2021	Royal Mail	po box	22	d/d	£36.60
01/07/2021	plusnet	parish council phone	23	d/d	£7.46
05/07/2021	East Boldre village hall	Hall hire	24	bacs	£250.00
05/07/2021	HALC	Councillor training	25	bacs	£54.00
05/07/2021	N Curzon	Clerk expenses	26	bacs	£44.23
05/07/2021	N Curzon	Clerk salary	27	bacs	£634.88
05/07/2021	microsoft	office 365	28	d/d	£5.99
<b>Total payments</b>					<b>£1,281.27</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
05/07/2021	hsbc	bank interest			£0.17
<b>Total receipts</b>					<b>£0.17</b>
<b>Bank reconciliation</b>					
<b>Balance as at date</b>					
HSBC Current					<b>£868.70</b>
HSBC Savings					<b>£19,452.69</b>
Less unrepresented cheques					<b>-£5.99</b>
<b>Net bank balance as at date</b>					<b>£20,315.40</b>
<b>The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows</b>					
Opening balances					<b>£15,695.92</b>
Add receipts					<b>£9,423.45</b>
less payments					<b>-£4,803.97</b>
<b>Closing balance as per the balance sheet</b>					<b>£20,315.40</b>

7.2 To consider financial support for East Boldre Community Stores. [Click here](#) for website link to presentation by Andy Brenan. East Boldre Community Stores requested that councillors consider:

1. A letter of support from the parish council.
2. To release £2495 of the funds earmarked by the parish council in December 2018, for the Village Hub project including the Community Shop.

Cllr Hawker asked for comments from all councillors present at the meeting:

- Cllr Husband agreed that 50% of the funds allocated by the parish council should be awarded to East Boldre Community Shop project. He was also happy that the parish council should write a letter of support which will help with fund raising.
- Cllr Holmes expressed concerns about parking, especially because the recent installation of dragon's teeth has reduced the village parking from 19 spaces to just 6. He highlighted the issues raised in the Village Hub business plan which states that delivery vans parking outside the village shop cause congestion on Main Road and reduce visibility, making exiting from Matthews Lane potentially dangerous.
- Cllr Clark was in favour of a letter of support for the community shop. She suggested that the shop project proceeds in a step-by-step manor, noting that parking will be a big issue and needs further

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consideration at a later date. She was keen that the parish council offers financial support, because we must not shut off the possibility of keeping a shop in the village which is a huge asset and essential for many residents of East Boldre.

- Cllr Gabzdyl highlighted the offer made by a resident close to the village shop, to run a pop-up café in the Village Hall rather than in the Community Shop.

Cllr Hawker asked councillors to vote on the two requests made by the Community Shop:

Cllr Clark, Cllr Husband and Cllr Hawker voted in favour of both requests, Cllr Gabzdyl and Cllr Holmes abstained from voting.

**Resolved:** East Boldre Parish Council will write a letter in support of East Boldre Community Shop, and £2495 of the £5000 ear-marked funds will be released for the Community Shop project.

7.3 To formalise the use of an accrual's basis of accounting. **Resolved:** The parish council is keen to adopt the accruals basis of accounting, this will allow funds to be set aside for a project in accounts which may be spent in a different financial year (e.g., £5000 for Village Hub/shop)

### **8.0. Public session**

None

### **9.0. Planning**

To consider tree application: CONS/21/0343 [link](#) **Resolved:** The council is keen to ensure that replanting takes place after the tree is felled.

### **10.0. Actions from internal Audit report.** (Circulated)

**Resolved:** Link to planning applications now included on agendas.

Figures adjusted for AGAR to show £5000 for Village Hub/Village Shop in budget but not as a payment until funds leave account. (The parish council has now adopted accruals basis of accounting which will allow funds to be set aside and spent in a new financial year)

### **11.0. To receive a broadband update**

Cllr Husband received the following information from Stephen Harris from Open Reach:

All dates for the completion of the project have been removed due to an issue Natural England has raised. Open Reach had all the necessary permissions for the project and whilst working at Bransgore on the installation of some boxes N.E objected. Natural England say this is based case law on the back of legislation. Apparently, they need the boxes every now and again, but do not need access for maintenance. Openreach has suggested burying the boxes at 30cm, N.E are querying whether this is enough for the 'habit' to recover. N.E is also saying they need planning permission which would be dealt with by the NPA and could take up to 56 days. The person in the NPA was on leave last week and Openreach are awaiting feedback as to whether this is needed.

All of this has implications for the build plan, hence no dates and the disappearance of all the Open Reach vans from the village.

Nationally this issue has not been raised at any other National SSSI site.

Open Reach are also pursuing whether N.E interpretation is correct.

Cllr Husband has asked Open Reach how many boxes were required for our project and if they can be specific about the location maybe they could be put in someone's garden with wayleaves etc.

Cllr Husband will pursue for both a better lay out diagram and for details of how many boxes required.

Stephen Harris will update Cllr Husband in 2 weeks.

### **12.0. To consider an amendment to the annual tenancy agreement for allotment plot holders.**

Cllr Drodge requested that the parish council make an amendment to the annual tenancy agreement so that allotment holders automatically become members of NSALG and East Boldre Allotment Association. The Parish Council already covers the cost of NSALG membership. There are no data protection issues with this, information is not shared (please see GDPR information from NSALG). There will be no cost implications. Allotment holders will receive access to cheaper seeds. NSALG can help with allotment issues and have a legal department.

Questions were asked about the legality of doing this

**Action BH**

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

- Cllr Hawker attended HALC training for the role of Chairman.

**14.0. Agenda items for next meeting.**

To consider the parish council response to NFNPA Planning White Paper, Hatchet Pond review, Village Hall update, Broadband update.

**15.0. To confirm that the next meeting of East Boldre Parish Council will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in East Boldre Village Hall only if there is urgent business, or at 7pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September.**

The meeting closed at 9pm.