

**East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall
on Tuesday 14th October 2025**

Councillors present:

Beverley Hawker (Chair), Mike Husband, Lou Cranton and Mike Urwin

In attendance:

Helen Symmons Locum Parish Clerk, Sue James Parish Clerk and County Cllr Keith Mans

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Ian Moyse and Anna Ronstand. District Cllr Dan Poole

2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2025

With regards to item 12 of the minutes, the chairman wished to express her congratulations to those involved in securing grants for the refurbishment of the village hall. The Chairman also thanked Mike Upton for securing the resilience grant to provide an emergency generator for the village.

Members **RESOLVED** the minutes as a true record of the September meeting which were signed by the Chairman.

4. Report by County Councillor

Councillor Mans gave an overview of the County council meeting to vote on the county's proposal regarding local government reorganisation and the creation of a unitary council covering the county of Hampshire. The proposal included the New Forest joining Southampton and Cllr Mans was concerned among other things that this could have a detrimental effect on the services currently supplied to the area by the county. These were raised in an accompanying letter. The Cllr intends to write to several New Forest MPs to request their representation on altering the county and district solutions. Cllr Mans reported that he believed that Hampshire were looking for a solution that saves the most money to enable those funds to be fed back into services.

Further information regarding the proposal can be found at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/governmentinhampshire/future-hampshire-solent/local-government-reorganisation>

Cllr Mans indicated that he has £5,000 available from his devolved budget to spend between November and February.

5. Report by the District Councillor

The Chairman advised that she had received a report from Cllr Poole, which confirmed that the District Council had unanimously voted for a Mid Hants Unitary authority, covering the New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester and East Hampshire in the Local Government reorganisation.

Cllr Poole expressed his apologies to those residents experiencing problems with the new waste collection regime. He is liaising with senior officers to try to improve the situation and does believe

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14th October 2025

that the number of missed collections is reducing on a weekly basis. He has been advised that once the rollout has been completed, some residents in phase 1 will have their collection day moved from a Friday to a Thursday, to relieve the pressure experienced by crews in the open Forest on a Friday. These residents will be informed closer to the time.

Councillor Poole launched the New Forest Community Lottery at the beginning of September. This is to help provide funds for charities and good causes in the area. Local charities can sign up to be recipients. More information can be found here <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/4095/New-Forest-community-lottery>.

Cllr Poole's councillor grant allocations have increased to £1,000 a year.

6. Public session

There were no public present.

7. Locum Clerk's Report

The Council **NOTED** all elements of the agenda report regarding the bus shelter work, the annual prune of the allotment hedge, the removal of the dead elm tree, the reduction in the interest rate on the deposit account, and the development of the Fawley Neighbourhood Plan.

The Locum Clerk reported that the notice of casual vacancy had expired and that the co-option of a new councillor would be considered.

8. Planning

8.1 New Applications

25/00759FULL Sherfield Cottage, Main Road, SO42 7WT – Council **RESOLVED** the application as follows:

The Parish Council agreed to select Box 5 – to accept the decision reached by NFNPA officers under delegated powers. However, the Council raised two concerns:

1. The outbuilding could be easily converted into accommodation for business/tourist use. The Council therefore felt a planning condition should be applied to prevent the outbuilding from being used as habitable accommodation.

2. There were too many rooflights. To mitigate the impact of light pollution on the night-time ecosystem (e.g. owls), the Council would like an additional condition requiring the installation of blackout blinds on the rooflights.

25/00930FULL 17, Sweyns Lease, SO42 7WQ – Council **RESOLVED** the application as follows: The Parish Council agreed to select Box 5 – to accept the decision reached by NFNPA officers under delegated powers. However, the Council raised the following concern:

That the increase in size and design of the building could have a detrimental effect on the street scene.

25/01099CONS Muddy Bottom Cottage, 3 Pages Lane SO42 7WG – Council **RESOLVED** the application as follows:

Agreed to accept the decision of the Tree Preservation Officer.

8.2 Determined Applications

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14th October 2025

There were no determined applications.

9. Finance

- 9.1 Monthly report ([published to website](#)) - **NOTED**
- 9.2 Bank reconciliation for September ([published to website](#)) – **RESOLVED** and signed
- 9.3 September payments and income ([published to website](#)) - Council **RESOLVED** the payments and **NOTED** the income
- 9.4 To consider projects for 2026-27 that may impact the budget – **Noted**
Two projects will be considered for 2026-27, renovations/repairs to bus shelters and a new notice board for Parish Council notices.
- 9.5 To appoint an Internal Auditor – **RESOLVED**. It was agreed that the current Internal Auditor should be retained for this year at a cost of £190. (the same as last year)

10. Governance

- 10.1 Email renewal report **Noted**. Cllr Urwin has been experiencing problems obtaining access to council email address. Clerk will forward email and contact details from provider.

11. To receive reports from external meetings

There have been no recent external meetings. However, the Councillors wished the following information from recent press releases and newspaper articles to be noted:

- Minutes from the latest NFALC meeting covered the Solent Gateway 2 Development on reclaimed land between Hythe and Marchwood. Concerns were raised that there had already been an increase in traffic using local roads and that the development would compound the problem. The Council should be aware of the situation. Further information on the development can be found [Solent Gateway 2 - Solent Gateway 2](#) .
- The NFNPA is experiencing less government revenue to maintain the forest and issued a press release regarding charges for the use of car parks. Charges will be in line with Forestry England charges and be across all car parks managed by the NFNPA. Local residents and frequent visitors will be able to park for free by purchasing a Forestry England membership at a cost of just under £2 per week. Those carrying out communing activities and other forestry work can still park for free. The Councillors were concerned of the impact of the charge on certain residents and that there will be an increase in kerb and damaging verge parking to try to avoid the charges. The councillors also questioned how the payment of the charges would be policed. Further information can be found [Upcoming changes to parking in the New Forest | Forestry England](#). The Councillors requested that the charges be added as an agenda item for the next meeting and that a request would be made for someone from NFNPA to attend. The Clerk will send a request to the NFNPA.

12. Review of Handy Trust trial period report

The Chairman reported that there will be a trial period of an evening drop in, using a small room in the village hall, when the renovation works have been completed. The Chairman will inform the Handy Trust.

The Chairman proposed that after a successful trial, a continuation of the provision should be considered as a project for next financial year. This was seconded by Cllr Husband. **Resolved**.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14th October 2025

13. Lengthsman

Councillors **NOTED** the agenda report regarding the commencement of the work on the railings and signage in November and that the council will be kept informed of any significant material costs
Resolved.

14. Helping Older People in the New Forest

The Chairman provided details regarding the agency that offers free and confidential support to older people. They also operate a befriending service, introducing trained volunteers to meet older people. The agency has taken on some of the services previously offered by Age Concern. The clerk will publish the details of the agency on the website.

15. Hampshire Forest Partnership's tree and hedge planting funds:

The Council **Noted** the three funding schemes available to both the community and the General Public for the Winter 2025/26 planting season and the comments regarding the cost of protecting young trees from deer and livestock.

16. Agenda items for next meeting:

The Clerk will invite a representative from Forestry England to talk about the new car park charges.

17. To confirm next Parish Council meeting as 7.00pm on 11th November 2025 in School Fields Trust Hall .

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14th October 2025