

**East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the village hall
on Tuesday 8 November 2022**

Councillors present: Bev Hawker (Chair), Ian Moyse (Vice-chair), Mike Husband, Rebecca Gabzdyl, Anna Rostand

Also present: District Cllr Keith Mans, Liz Welch, Parish Clerk

In attendance: 5 members of the public

1.0 To accept apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Teresa Morrissey

2.0 Declaration of interest in agenda items

None.

3.0 To confirm minutes of the previous parish council meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2022. Matters arising: Item 8 - Cllr Hawker will raise concern on the clarity of planning applications at the next SE Quadrant meeting; Item 11 - Cllr Husband will be the lead contact for the Hatchet Pond post-planning consultation.

4.0 To receive the Clerk's report

- Beaulieu PC Chair has heard back from Forestry England re Hatchet Pond – commencement of works has been put back to next year. BCP's Cllrs Sara Steele and Nick Hubbard offered to meet with EBPC representative(s) to discuss further. Cllr Husband observed that the main issue concerns interpretation of natural regeneration. Cllr Moyse offered to attend alongside Cllr Husband if he is available.
- No election is required for the Cllr vacancy, Cllrs were asked to forward suggestions for co opting a candidate.
- Concerns received about the overflowing bin outside village shop on 24 October. The Clerk contacted NFDC and the issue resolved on this occasion. Cllr Gabzdyl advised that the bins are usually emptied on weekly refuse collection days.
- Green Canopy celebrations – Cllr Husband commented on what a great community event this was, echoed by the Clerk. £64.88 raised in donations towards the village hall rebuild. The tree is now on the Green Canopy map and certificates displayed on parish noticeboards. Special thanks go to Stuart Newey and Mike Upton who volunteered huge amounts of enthusiasm as steering group members. Cllr Hawker praised the contribution of all volunteers, and in particular Nicola Henshaw, Mike Morris, Jonathan Dowe and the Romsey Ukulele players. An article appeared in the Lymington Times and the East Boldre e-newsletter. Cllr Husband advised that the older tree adjacent to the car park was planted to mark Her Late Majesty's 25 year Jubilee and asked if a similar plaque could be installed. Cllr Hawker suggested that the Timeline activity led to an excellent opportunity to capture East Boldre's unique history for little cost.
- Allotments – the Clerk has drafted a revised set of allotment rules based on NAS consultation and other sources. The aim is twofold: To be fairer to allotment holders and neighbours, and to make the rules more succinct and enforceable by EBPC. The

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022

Allotments Association committee produced a nice newsletter and their next meet is planned for 15 November.

- Greening Campaign – Three people have expressed interest to date. Posters are on display on the noticeboards with an invitation to hold an initial meeting for this community-led initiative. Cllr Rostand suggested that the NFDC is approached to find out more on their climate change priorities.
- The Internal Auditor has been confirmed for the financial year 2022-23.
- The Clerk attended the meeting with Kate Ryan, Chief Exec at NFDC, for town and parish clerks on the 8 November. She flagged concern that NFDC plans for a Public Space Protection Order to ban wildfires and BBQs could impact on allotments located on Crown Lands. 2023 Council elections will require all voters to have photo ID, Clerk advised that this could disadvantage some members of the public, and those without internet access who could struggle to apply for Voter Authority Certificates. If contested, an election will cost EBPC in the region of £1.10 per elector.

ACTION:

1. Clerk to investigate similar RBL plaque
2. Clerk contact NFDC officer responsible for climate change
3. All to note election deadline for Cllr nominations: 4pm, 4 April 2023.

5.0 Report from Hampshire County Councillor

County Councillors are working to balance next year's budget proposals, due for consideration at their next meeting. The final decision is due in February. Mergers have taken place and there are now three departments: Highways, parks and public services; children's services; social care. As Trustee, Cllr Mans attended the East Boldre Education Trust meeting to consider grant applications. Only a few grant requests were received. Cllr Mans encourages local families to apply, any application that benefits a child from the parish or a school where the grant will directly benefit children from the parish will be considered with around £3000 available each year. Trustees meet twice a year.

5.1 To receive questions on the report by County Councillor:

- Education Trust: The Clerk advised that information on the education trust had been displayed on parish noticeboards and asked if Trustees might consider preparing a more visual A4 flier. Cllr Moyse suggested that an online form would help encourage more applications.
- Cllr Rostand asked if future budget restraints would impact on social services. Cllr Mans replied that this is a statutory service provision and would not be affected. He hoped that more money will be directed to increase efficiency and in particular care for the elderly, and supported Cllr Hawker's view that a more joined up approach is needed.
- In response to a question from Cllr Husband about Heritage Lottery contacts, Cllr Mans advised Cllr Husband to liaise with Cllr Gabzdyl.

6.0 Report from New Forest District Councillor

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022

Cllr Harris not present.

7.0 Public session

Members of public were given the opportunity present information on the revised planning application for Tregonalls Bungalow (item 9.1). The applicants advised Cllrs of the measures taken to address concerns raised at the previous Parish Council meeting: Rooflights have been reduced in size and fencing will prevent visibility from the north and east; floor space has been reduced as advised by the NPA planning officer; the outbuilding has been reduced in size and moved away from the boundary – the planning officer advised that this is now subservient and proportionate; the carport includes space for an off road wheelchair and is located 4.5m away from the boundary and the NPA conservation officer suggests that it now better complements the courtyard design. Commenting first on problems with the NPA portal which has made it difficult to access comments regarding the application, a second member of public raised concern about the height and location of the obtrusive nature of the proposed carport and requested that it be located to the other side of the property. Supporting this view, a third member of public stated that the roof lights remain a concern and presented Cllrs with an email he received from CPRE Hampshire which recommends a full lighting report and that rooflights should be either removed or fully screened at night.

Cllr Hawker advised the applicants to investigate reduced light glass; Cllr Husband suggested that blinds could suffice. Cllrs Hawker and Husband gave credit to the applicants for actively taking steps to take on board comments made previously. Cllr Husband went on to advise that he and Cllr Hawker would attend the planning officer's site visit scheduled for the 9 November. Cllr Moyses explained that Cllrs have been faced with similar issues in the past, where planning regulations have been followed and a site visit has been helpful. Cllrs Gabzdyl and Rostand asked questions about the height of the carport; Cllr Moyses advised that aesthetically it is in keeping with the rest of the building. Cllr Rostand noted that the height is now lower than the previous plans. The applicant summarised their reservations about moving the carport. They were not aware that a site visit was planned on their property but agreed with the proviso that they are kept informed by phone.

ACTION:

Cllrs present agreed that their recommendation to the NPA will be based on conclusions drawn by Cllrs Hawker and Husband on the 9 November.

8.0 Finance

8.1 To review monthly accounts and to note bank reconciliation (circulated)

Cllrs reviewed monthly accounts and noted bank reconciliation (appendices 1 and 2).

8.2 To approve the budget for 2023-24

Cllr Hawker presented an overview of expenditure to date and likely outgoings for the next financial year. This informed the budget planning for 2023/24. We are forecasting a deficit of £4228 for 2022/23 and budgeting for a deficit of £1260 in 23/24. This assumes we complete the necessary exercise of measuring the allotments to determine an equitable charging mechanism. The budgeted reserve of £8526 complies with the policy of maintaining reserves equivalent to 6 months of expenditure. Cllr Hawker emphasised that any future projects would need to be funded by applying for grants. The budget for 2023/4 must include an amount for election expenses and this will be included.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022

Cllr Hawker advised that a national clerks' pay scale increase had been agreed very recently and was backdated from April 2022. This impacts on salary costs for this financial year and next financial year and will need to be included in the budget.

Allotment plot holders were informed in April of this year of a rent increase for 2023/24 and a discussion between councillors took place regarding expenditure and the importance of covering costs.

RESOLVED:

1. Allotment rents to increase by 15% for 2023-24; plans to request a deposit of £50 per plot from April 2023 to be withdrawn.
2. Minor adjustments to be made following discussions and included with the minutes (Appendix 2).

8.3 To agree the precept for 2023 -24

The expenditure in council business for this year and next year was discussed.

RESOLVED: No increase to precept for 2023/24 will be requested.

8.4 To consider a grant application from School Fields Trust (circulated).

Cllr Husband noted that, like the village hall, the School Fields Trust benefitted significantly from government (taxpayers) grants during lockdown. Cllr Husband advised caution in allocating further taxpayer funding. Cllrs were not clear what the Trust's operating costs were as the previous year included improvement works. While noting that SFT reserves are healthier than EBPC's, Cllrs were in agreement that the School Fields are a valuable resource for the community and welcome the Trust's proposals, which will benefit older children and teenagers in particular.

RESOLVED:

A grant of £750 shall be made to the SFT, coming from EBPC reserves.

ACTION:

1. Cllr Rostand to write to the SFT to explain the current situation and notify of the proposal's success
2. Clerk to obtain rent rates for nearby Lymington allotments.

9.0 Planning applications

9.1 22/00564 - TREGONALS BUNGALOW, LYMINGTON ROAD, EAST END, LYMINGTON SO41 5SS amended plans (item 7). Parish Council's decision to be advised following site visit with the responsible Planning Officer on 9 November.

No concerns raised:

9.2 22/00780 CONS Tree works. Prune 1 x Common Ash tree Prune 2 x Monterey Pine trees. Hatchet Mill, MAIN ROAD, EAST BOLDRE, BROCKENHURST, SO42 7WD

9.3 22/00786 CONS Tree works. Prune 1 x Eucalyptus tree. Fairwinds, MAIN ROAD, EAST BOLDRE, BROCKENHURST, SO42 7WL.

13.0 Broadband update

Cllr Husband praised Openreach project leader, Jeffrey Jones. Commissioning work is still underway but it is expected that work as far as Bagshot Moor will be completed by 14 November.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022

14.0 To receive reports from external meetings

None.

15.0 Agenda items for next meeting

A meeting will be held to confirm draft budget and consider urgent planning applications only.

16.0 Date of next meeting

The next parish council meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 13 December at East Boldre village hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022

Appendix 1

East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule - October 2022					
<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Folio</i>	<i>trans</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Payments					
05/10/2022	Microsoft	Office 365	57	dd	£5.99
06/10/2022	Viking	Stationery	58	bacs	£20.70
18/10/2022	Quayline	Autumn newsletter	59	bacs	£472.80
18/10/2022	EB Community Store	Grant	60	bacs	£2,500.00
19/10/2022	Lymington Print	Green Canopy posters	61	bacs	£4.80
20/10/2022	Royal Mail	PO Box	62	dd	£38.10
20/10/2022	NF Stationers	Green Canopy materials	63	bacs	£63.23
21/10/2022	HSBC	Bank charges to 29 Sep	64	dd	£5.00
27/10/2022	Rejuvenate.it	Microsoft upgrade	65	bacs	£160.00
27/10/2022	Rejuvenate.it	Office 365	66	bacs	£19.34
27/10/2022	Landford Trees	Green Canopy oak tree	67	bacs	£106.92
31/10/2022	Plusnet	Parish Cl phone	68	dd	£9.61
31/10/2022	E Welch	Salary	69	bacs	£645.99
31/10/2022	E Welch	Mileage & expenses Sep-Oct	70	bacs	£146.36
31/10/2022	Romsey Ukulele	Green Canopy music	71	bacs	£80.00
31/10/2022	Michael Upton	Green Canopy catering	72	bacs	£98.85
31/10/2022	Community Heartbeat	Defibs x 3 annual support	73	bacs	£475.20
31/10/2022	Victim Support	Grant	74	bacs	£50.00
31/10/2022	Bev Hawker	Green Canopy catering	75	bacs	£70.00
Total payments					£4,972.89
Receipts					
12/10/2022	HSBC	bank interest	59	bacs	£5.99
Total receipts					£5.99
Money transferred			57		£5,500.00
Bank reconciliation					
Balance as at date					
HSBC Current					£981.26
HSBC Savings					£20,748.59
Less unrepresented cheques					
Net bank balance as at date					£21,729.85
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows					
Opening balances					£18,455.79
Add receipts					£18,180.12
less payments					-£14,906.06
Closing balance as per the balance sheet					£21,729.85

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022

Appendix 2

2022/23 forecast and 23/24 draft
budget

We are forecasting a deficit of £4228 for 2022/23 and budgeting for a deficit of £1260 in 2023/24

This assumes that we complete the necessary exercise of measuring the allotments to determine an equitable charging mechanism.

The budgeted reserve of £8526 complies with the policy of maintaining reserves equivalent to 6 months of expenditure

	22/23			23/24
	Budget	YTD	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£	£
Council business				
Income	16,002.00	16,012.87	16,012.00	16012.00
Expenditure	15,955.00	8,124.97	14,967.00	-16325.00
Surplus (deficit)	47.00	7,887.90	1,045.00	-313.00
Projects				
Income	-	-	-	
Expenditure	2,300.00	3,110.13	3,900.00	-1000.00
Surplus (deficit)	2,300.00	3,110.13	3,900.00	-1000.00
Allotments				
Income	1,585.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1748.00
Expenditure	1,560.00	629.27	2,893.00	-1695.00
Surplus (deficit)	25.00	890.73	1,373.00	53.00
VAT recovered		397.25		
VAT paid		858.69		
net	-	461.44	-	0.00
Total surplus (deficit)	2,228.00	5,207.06	4,228.00	1,260.00
Reserve brought forward		14,014.00	14,014.00	9786.00
Reserve carried forward	2,228.00	19,221.06	9,786.00	8,526.00
Reserves		19,221.06	9,786.00	8526.00
Commitment		2,509.00	2,509.00	2509.00
Total		21,730.06	12,295.00	11035.00

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022

Council business income				
precept	16,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	16000.00
bank interest	2.00	12.87	12.00	12.00
Total	16,002.00	16,012.87	16,012.00	16012.00
Council business expenditure				
salary	9,000.00	4,459.79	8,680.00	9000.00
stationery/post/phone	550.00	367.64	550.00	600.00
travel	400.00	135.00	300.00	400.00
office	400.00	199.98	400.00	400.00
equipment	600.00	-	200.00	600.00
training	500.00	96.42	200.00	300.00
newsletter	450.00	556.00	556.00	450.00
hall hire	250.00	-	250.00	250.00
audit	440.00	190.00	200.00	200.00
insurance	440.00	481.65	482.00	500.00
defibrillators	400.00	396.00	396.00	400.00
Speedwatch	-	28.00	28.00	
football pitch	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00
subscriptions	1,300.00	989.49	1,500.00	1500.00
election expenses				500.00
maintenance	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1000.00
Total	15,955.00	8,124.97	14,967.00	16325.00
Projects income				
grants		-		
donations		-		
Total		-		
Projects expenditure				
EBOH salary	-	-		
EBOH other	-	-		
grants	-	3,110.13	3,900.00	1000.00

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022

defibrillators	250.00	-		
seats	50.00			
bus shelters etc	1,000.00			
notice boards	1,000.00	-		
public transport	-	-		
Total	2,300.00	3,110.13	3,900.00	1000.00
Allotments income	1,580.00	1,520.00	1,520.00	1748.00
Allotments expenditure				
rent refund	-			
Rent,insurance	550.00	568.00	568.00	570.00
water	250.00	61.27	125.00	125.00
hedging	360.00	-	800.00	600.00
fencing	200.00	-	200.00	200.00
maintenance	200.00	-	1,200.00	200.00
Total	1,560.00	629.27	2,893.00	1695.00

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13/12/2022