

**Minutes of the Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2022 at 8.00pm at East Boldre Village Hall.**

Present:

Cllr B Hawker (Chair), Cllr I Moyse (Vice Chair), Cllr M Husband, Cllr T Morrissey, Cllr A Rostand, Cllr M Urwin

In attendance: Liz Welch (Parish Clerk)

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly, explaining the later start of 8.45pm.

**2. Apologies for absence**

None

**3. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 March 2022 and approved by all present on 12 April 2022 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**4. Chairman's Report to the Parish Electors**

The Chair offered the following report which reflects on the last 12 months and the Council's performance:

*"We are expected to:*

- *Assist parishioners with local issues*
- *Establish good working relationships with other stakeholders*
- *Act as a statutory consultee on local planning matters*
- *Provide allotments*
- *Set and manage the precept*

*Virtual meetings have become a distant memory and we hold all of our meetings in public at the Village Hall. We do continue to carry out appropriate risk assessments and make the necessary adjustments in line with recommended good practice.*

*During the year Cllrs Kevin Holmes and Rebecca Gabzdyl have stood down. I would like to thank them both for their contribution to our community. We have coopted Cllrs Anna Rostand, Teresa Morrissey, and Mike Urwin.*

*Every 4 years on the first Thursday in May Parish Councils must conduct an election. As a result all Councillors will stand down on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Their current intention is to stand for election; any resident wishing to become a Councillor will complete the nominations process. In the event that more than seven candidates express an interest in standing an election will be organized.*

*Cllrs. Mans and Harris have been regular attendees on behalf of their respective councils. We are grateful to them both.*

**Local issues:**

- *Village shop. The Baptist Church closed in September 2021 and the building was put up for sale by the Baptist Union Corporation in March 2022. The community benefit society, East Boldre Community Stores Limited, has made an offer to buy the Chapel and plans to relocate the village shop and post office to that site by the end of summer 2023. Recognising the importance of this valuable community asset the Parish Council was happy to support this venture with a grant and notes the community's support of the recent share offer.*
- *School Fields Trust. We recognise the tremendous contribution to the community of the management team at the School Fields Trust. Cllr Rostand has supported them through representation and the Parish Council made a grant of £750 towards equipment.*

Chairman's signature:

Date:

## EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL

- *Coffee mornings. A group of local volunteers have established a monthly coffee morning in response to an identified need. We note the continuing success of this venture and congratulate the organisers.*
- *Speed watch. We have purchased the appropriate equipment jointly with Boldre Parish Council. We have completed the initial training and are establishing a regular presence. We continue to seek additional volunteers.*
- *Hatchets Pond. Forestry England have started their planned work to remove the toilets and resite the car park. We are working with Beaulieu Parish Council to understand better the landscaping plans of Forestry England.*
- *Emergency Plan. Mike Upton and his team of volunteers continue to maintain our emergency planning process. The council is grateful for their efforts and the assurance it provides us.*
- *Defibrillators and CPR training. The council is grateful to the volunteers who regularly check this equipment to ensure that it is fully operational. Mike Upton, chairman of the emergency plan team, supported by the council, continues to organize CPR training for local residents. First responders from the South Central Ambulance Service have trained over 25 residents in the last 12 months.*
- *Broadband. The availability of high quality broadband continues to be an issue for many residents but huge progress has been made. Cllrs Husband and Moyes together with local resident Stuart Newey continue to make excellent progress in their dealings with Openreach.*
- *Village Hall. The Council recognises and supports the need to improve the village hall and was pleased at the success of the recent planning application. Meanwhile the council is grateful for the provision of the hall at no cost for CPR training and allotment meeting.*
- *Platinum jubilee. The event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee by planting an oak tree was a huge success thanks to the hard work of the organizing committee and its supporters. It was supported by a wide cross section of the parish and was an opportunity to thank all of our community volunteers as well as celebrate the life of our late Queen.*
- *Beaulieu Heath. The Parish Council successfully nominated the Second World War Airfield at Beaulieu Heath to be listed as a heritage asset.*
- *Village appearance. The Council continues to monitor the appearance of the village and to initiate maintenance where appropriate. We are very aware that individual parishioners carry out their own 'litter picks'; we are grateful to them.*
- *College transport. The Council listened to resident's concerns about the safety issues associated with the pick up/drop off point for Brockenhurst College transport. The Clerk has organised a safer alternative.*
- *Community policing. After a period without a community police officer the Council has now met with PC Mark Roberts. He has been briefed about local issues and will conduct regular beat surgeries. The volume of recorded crime in the village has declined and is very low.*
- *Civility and Respect Pledge. The Council has signed up to align behaviors to those set out in this document produced by the National Association of Local Councils.*

*Other Stakeholders*

- *Hampshire County Council (HCC). Cllr Mans, the leader of the HCC regularly attends our meetings providing updates on relevant matters, support and wise counsel.*
- *New Forest District Council (NFDC). Cllr Harris regularly attends and provides updates from the perspective of the NFDC, support and wise counsel.*
- *New Forest National Park Authority. Nick Gruber, Tree Officer, briefed us on tree protection orders, and conservation area legislation.*

Chairman's signature:

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- *HCC Greening Campaign. Cllr. Mike Urwin has taken responsibility on behalf of the Council for this important initiative. He will identify the options available to the Council.*
- *Councillors are represented on the New Forest National Park South East Quadrant, New Forest Association of Local Councils, and the New Forest Consultative Panel. They provide feedback on matters relevant to the parish.*

#### **Statutory Consultee**

- *The Council dealt with over 15 planning applications during the year. We are grateful to the hard work of Cllrs Husband and Moyes which informs our own comments on planning matters.*

#### **Providing allotments**

*The Council continues to meet its obligation to make allotments available to local residents. The over supply of allotments, and the related cost, had been alleviated by the closure of allotment 2.*

*However, the provision continues to exceed the demand of parish residents.*

*The Council continues to look to allotment holders to take responsibility for the effective day to day management of the allotments, and is pleased that the allotment holders have formed a Management Committee.*

*The Council has initiated a process of mapping the allotments to provide more accurate data about comparative allotment sizes and rental charges.*

#### **Set and manage the precept**

- *The Council maintained the precept at £16,000 and is not recommending an increase for 2023/24*
- *The deficit on Council business has been eliminated*
- *The Council made grants to East Boldre Community Stores Limited; the School Fields Trust, and Victim Support.*
- *The reserves stand at more than £10,000 which meets the minimum level of reserves required to demonstrate sustainability.*

*Councillors are volunteers and give their time generously on behalf of the community. I would like to thank them for their commitment and hard work. I would also like to thank those members of the public who take the time to join our meetings; raising matters of concern, and suggesting new initiatives for the Council to discuss and support.*

*A special thank you to our hard working Clerk who has settled in quickly to provide us with support and sound advice."*

Cllrs reiterated the Chair's thanks to the Clerk and went on to thank the Chair for this informative report.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: