

**East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall
on Tuesday 8 October 2024**

Councillors present: Beverley Hawker (Chair), Mike Husband, Teresa Morrissey, Anna Rostand, Mike Urwin

In attendance: 4 members of public, County Cllr Mans, District Cllr Poole, Liz Welch (Parish Clerk).

Opening the meeting, BH brought item 12.1 and invited cllrs to consider an application from Louise Cranton for parish councillor vacancy by co-option. AR proposed and TM seconded. Carried unanimously.

1.0 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Ian Moyse.

2.0 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3.0 To confirm minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2024.

3.1 Matters arising

Item 6, BH thanked Cllr Poole for organising the Exxon zoom meet for TPCs as part of the Solent CO2 consultation. The parish council responded to the consultation and their stance was shared publicly.

4.0 To receive Clerk's report

CO2 pipeline: LW advised that the parish council received an email from the Solent CO2 pipeline project to advise that they would no longer progress the initiative.

Authorised absence: LW has been given a date for surgery and advised cllrs plans are underway to ensure the continued smooth running of the parish council. The parish clerk for Sway has agreed to carry out essential administration on a freelance basis for approximately 3 hours a week. Cllrs agreed that Katie Walding will be given access to manage the parish council's bank and IT accounts, making payments as required.

Newsletter: LW recommended to cllrs that a more regular, electronic newsletter should be produced in future, to replace the traditional printed versions. This could be distributed via existing external email circulation list, the parish council website and social media, with a small supply in hard print. In the interim, LW disseminates parish council news through East Boldre and Beyond, the e-newsletter. Report from clerks' meet with NFDC Chief Exec: LW summarised key points.

New Forest Action against hardship meet: Attendees were offered an update from Citizens Advice and from the Basics Bank, followed by discussions on plans to reach out with mobile services.

Fairshare's focus is seeking to appeal to the wider community in a bid to reduce food waste and increase take up and promote living well. This could be via community hubs. A recent study of the New Forest highlighted high food costs and poor public transport which severely impacts on employment opportunities.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 12/11/2024

Allotments: Based on the average water bills over 3 years from 2021-2024, LW advised that allotment water charges for 2025-26 work out at 0.02pence per m2. The EBAA AGM is scheduled for 21/10/2024.

RESOLVED:

1. Cllrs agreed bank and IT access to be given to Katie Walding in LW's absence. The arrangement will be on a freelance basis.
2. Cllrs supported plans to move towards a parish council e-newsletter. Design to be agreed at a future date.
3. Water charges for allotment holders 2025-26 will be based on 0.02pence per m2.

ACTION:

1. LW to arrange handover to Katie Walding
2. LW to advise allotment holders of water charges 2025-26.

5.0 To receive a report by the County Councillor for East Boldre

Cllr Mans advised that he had too received a response from Exxon Mobil to state they have withdrawn. Despite a sustained effort over three years to secure government security, they concluded it was not a viable investment. Discussion followed on how the £22 billion saving could be used for other measures to tackle climate change. Hants CC await the new Government's first budget, and the implications for local government and council tax.

Cllr Mans noted that the Duke of Gloucester's recent visit was very well received.

5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor

MH expressed concern that Marchwood refuse base is to be closed permanently this month. Cllr Mans acknowledged there has been much criticism of two refuse sites that are being closed down as part of cost saving measures.

6.0 To receive a report by the District Councillor for East Boldre

Cllr Poole advised that the Chief Executive of ExxonMobil Fawley, Nick Bone, met Sir Julian Lewis MP the day after the public consultation closed, to announce that the CO2 pipeline project was shelved. US bosses had expressed concerns about the UK consultation process. Mr Bone conceded that they did not anticipate such a large public response.

6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor

Thanking Cllr Poole, MH noted the incredible force of the public response, particularly from the IoW where 30,000 complaints were lodged in the first week.

7.0 To consider the New Forest Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

BH stated in principle that cycling should be encouraged. MU agrees, and felt the document was long. MU questioned whether the aims are achievable. AR suggests lack of local bus service emphasis a need for cycle friendly routes. BH proposed that Liz and MU draft a response on behalf of the EBPC.

ACTION:

MU and LW to draft written response.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 12/11/2024

8.0 To receive an update on progress towards the village hall refurbishment

A representative of the village hall trustees offered an update. Four tenders are anticipated by 14 October. There have been encouraging successes with grant applications, but there is much more to be done. The trustee thanked Cllrs Mans and Poole for their contributions, along with the Beaufort Trust, HCC and the NFDC. Trustees have secured an energy audit and the current village hall energy performance is band C. A number of energy reduction measures need to be in place by February 2025, including double glazed windows. The refurbishment total cost is likely to be in the region of £350,000 to £400,000. Once quotes are received the business plan will be finalised and further grants sought. BH praised the trustee for their hard work and achievements to date.

9.0 Public session

BH brought forward item 11.

11 To review planning applications

11.1 24/00855FULL: Bracken Lodge, Chapel Lane, East Boldre, Brockenhurst, SO42 7WP

A member of public outlined plans, adding that the current roof needs repair and the partial tiling is intended to cope with driving rain.

24/008 55FULL	Bracken Lodge, CHAPEL LANE, EAST BOLDRE, BROCKENHURST SO42 7WP	Attic conversion including addition of dormer window & rooflights; tile hanging to upper walls	We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below: Plans do not impact on surrounding area and fall within the 30% rule.
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11.2 24/01004FULL: O/S, Harveys Farmhouse, Main Road, East Boldre, Brockenhurst, SO42 7WU

A member of public informed cllrs that they had just received an email which they understood to be a rejection of the application. Noting the individual's concern, cllrs sought to understand the situation. MH welcomed the individual's intention to liaise with the planning officer and their architect. BH suggested that it was inappropriate to comment on the application at this time, adding that the parish council is usually made aware of such advisories beforehand. LW advised that she would investigate the matter and update cllrs.

24/0100 4FULL	O/S, Harveys Farmhouse, MAIN ROAD, EAST BOLDRE, BROCKENHUR ST, SO42 7WU	2no. single storey extensions; demolition of conservatory	Application not considered at this time. Parish Council awaits an update or amended plans in advance of the next parish council meeting on 12 November 2024.
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ACTION:

Clerk to relay decisions to the NPA.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 12/11/2024

10 Finance

10.1 To review monthly accounts and to note bank reconciliation (appendices 1 and 2)

LW advised that the second precept instalment from NFDC had reached the bank account.

Noting that the parish council needs to include projects in the 2025/26 budget, BH invited suggestions from cllrs. As agreed previously, this will include East End bus shelter repairs. MH expressed concern about neglected ditches, noting concerns about longer term liability of future.

Cllrs noted the forecast for 2024-25.

RESOLVED:

1. The monthly report and bank reconciliation for September were approved.
2. Cllrs noted the current year forecast.

ACTIONS:

Proposed draft budget for 2025/26 to be discussed at next meeting, and determine precept request.

12 Governance

12.1 To consider a co-option application for parish councillor Above.

12.2 To appoint an internal auditor for 2024-25

Cllrs agreed to invite Eleanor Greene of Do The Numbers to carry out the internal audit. BH requested a cost for the audit service 2025/26.

RESOLVED:

1. Louise Cranton appointed East Boldre parish councillor.
2. Appoint Eleanor Greene of Do The Numbers to carry out audit for 2024-25.

ACTION:

1. LW to arrange Declaration of acceptance of office and register of members' interests for Louise Cranton.
2. LW to contact Do The Numbers.

13 To receive reports from external meetings

MU and MH attended the extraordinary NFALC meeting to consider the CO2 pipeline consultation. Both also attended the scheduled NFALC meeting.

BH formally welcomed the Rev Katherine Cowie to St Paul's church at a ceremony in Beaulieu Abbey, along with other cllrs.

Cllrs were delighted to welcome Duke of Gloucester at his recent visit to Chapel Stores.

The next defibrillator training will take place Jan 2025.

Two speedwatch sessions were completed in September. Of 96 cars were recorded, one person exceeded the speed limit.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 12/11/2024

14 Agenda items for next meeting

Budget 2025-26; set precept request.

15.0 Date of next meeting

The next parish council meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at East Boldre Village Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 12/11/2024

Appendix 1 Monthly report

Monthly report September 2024

	2024-25		24/25	
	Actual	Budget	YTD	Forecast
	£	£	£	£
Council business				
Income	16,340.00	16745.00	16,673.10	
Expenditure	14,241.00	15875.00	6,987.32	
Surplus (deficit)	2,099.00	870.00	9,685.78	
Projects				
Income			-	
Expenditure	100.00	1000.00	-	
Surplus (deficit)	100.00	-1000.00	-	
Allotments				
Income	1,829.00	1921.00	1,803.78	
Expenditure	1,648.00	2580.00	783.57	
Surplus (deficit)	181.00	-659.00	1,020.21	
VAT recovered	225.00		543.74	
VAT paid	581.00		170.54	
net	356.00		373.20	
Total surplus (deficit)	1,825.00	-789.00	11,079.19	
Reserve brought forward	11,743.00	0.00	13,568.00	
Reserve carried forward	13,568.00	-789.00	24,647.19	
Cash at bank	13,573.00		24,652.31	
Adjustments				
Cash book balance	13,573.00		24,652.31	
Reserves	13,568.00		24,647.19	
Commitment	5.00		5.14	
Total	13,573.00		24,652.33	
Council business Income				
precept	16,000.00	16500.00	16,500.00	16,500.00
bank interest	340.00	245.00	173.10	260.00
Total	16,340.00	16745.00	16,673.10	16,760.00
Council business expenditure				
salary	9,227.00	9300.00	4,275.91	9500.00
stationery/post/phone	623.00	630.00	247.44	630.00
travel	216.00	400.00	105.30	400.00
office	312.00	400.00	130.00	312.00
equipment	737.00	200.00	38.95	150.00

Chairman's signature:

Date: 12/11/2024

training	125.00	300.00	-	300.00
newsletter	50.00	300.00	-	100.00
hall hire	300.00	330.00	330.00	330.00
audit	190.00	200.00	190.00	190.00
insurance	481.00	500.00	490.12	490.12
defibrillators	396.00	440.00	-	
Speedwatch			-	
football pitch	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00
subscriptions	1,247.00	1650.00	954.60	1650.00
election expenses	75.00		-	
maintenance	37.00	1000.00	-	1000.00
Total	14,241.00	15875.00	6,987.32	15277.12
Projects income				
grants				
donations				
Total			-	
Projects expenditure				
EBOH other			-	
grants	100.00	1000.00	-	1,000.00
defibrillators			-	
notice boards				
public transport			-	
Total	100.00	1000.00	-	
Allotments income	1,829.00	1921.00	1,803.78	1,850.00
Allotments expenditure				
Administration		700.00		700.00
rent refund	41.00		-	
Rent,insurance	669.00	600.00	574.00	600.00
water	194.00	280.00	45.60	280.00
hedging	500.00	600.00	-	300.00
fencing			-	0.00
maintenance	244.00	400.00	163.97	700.00
Total	1,648.00	2580.00	783.57	2,580.00

Chairman's signature:

Date: 12/11/2024

Appendix 2 Payment schedule

East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule - September 2024

<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Folio</i>	<i>trans</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Payments					
16-Sep-24	ROYAL MAIL FINANCE	PO Box	41	DD	£42.60
21-Sep-24	HSBC	TOTAL CHARGES TO 30AUG2024	42	DR	£5.00
23-Sep-24	EE LIMITED	Parish Cl phone	43	DD	£6.47
23-Sep-24	GOCARDLESS	Office 365	44	DD	£12.36
30-Sep-24	E Welch	Clerk salary	45	BP	£646.50
30-Sep-24	E B Village Hall	Hall hire 2024-25	46	BP	£330.00
Total payments					£1,042.93
Receipts					
04-Sep-24	Name withheld	Allot rent	52	BP	£37.95
12-Sep-24	HSBC	Interest	53	INT	£28.18
24-Sep-24	Name withheld	Allot rent	54	CR	25.3
27-Sep-24	Name Withheld	Allot rent	55	CR	37.95
30-Sep-24	NEW FOREST D.C.	Precept	57	CR	£8,250.00
Total receipts					£8,379.38
Money transferred					
30-Sep-24	HSBC	Internet transfer	56	TFR	£1,000.00
Bank reconciliation					
Balance as at date					
HSBC Current					£827.84
HSBC Savings					£23,824.47
Less unrepresented cheques					
Net bank balance as at date					£24,652.31
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows					
Opening balances					£13,573.12
Add receipts					£19,020.62
less payments					-£7,941.43
Closing balance as per the balance sheet					£24,652.31

Chairman's signature:

Date: 12/11/2024