

**EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Online on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7pm

**Present:**

Cllr K Holmes Chairman

Cllr B Hawker Vice Chair

Cllr M Husband

Cllr I Moyse

Cllr L Clark

Cllr Gabzdyl

Cllr D Drodge

In attendance – Mrs Nicola Curzon, Parish Clerk; Cllr Mans, County Councillor

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

None.

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

Cllr Gabzdyl: Planning application 21/00039 – April Cottage.

**3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting. They will be signed by the Chairman when the Parish Council is able to resume public meetings.

**3.1. Matters arising from the minutes.**

**11.0. To receive a broadband update:** Cllr Husband informed the council that the latest broadband updates are now posted on the parish council website and Facebook page as well as on East Boldre.org.

Mike Upton has set up a WhatsApp group to inform residents on broadband progress.

Cllr Husband noted that in the Verderers Court Minutes December 2020. Minute 2020/1139: BT is currently negotiating with private landowners to site the poles and cables off Forest land. The short length of fibre at the Norley Wood end will be placed underground. Formal proposals are awaited and are expected to fall within the authority of the de-minimis committee. The de-minimis committee are a small group of Verderers and the Clerk empowered to get on and make decisions about smaller issue. This minute would suggest the issues raised in Item 4 of the previous update are well on the way to resolution. I.e. the 14 extra poles.

Cllr Gabzdyl contacted Community Fibre Partnership to ascertain which postcodes might be eligible for the HCC broadband voucher scheme: All properties in East Boldre are listed under current projects therefore none are currently eligible for the voucher scheme. It was agreed that the council should pursue ongoing projects to conclusion before looking at the voucher scheme.

Cllr Husband will invite Glen Peacy and a representative of Open Reach to a Parish Council meeting to ascertain what outputs were agreed between HCC and Open Reach. Cllr Mans will be copied in on the invitation email.

**Action MH**

**12.0. To receive an update on work at Hatchet Pond.** Hatchet Pond updates are now posted on the parish council website. Cllr Clark is in ongoing discussions with Forestry England and local volunteers, she is keen to raise awareness and encourage locals to sign up for the New Forest Ambassador Scheme. Cllr Clark also suggested facilitating a zoom meeting with local B&Bs to pass on information highlighting of the importance of Hatchet Pond, and to ensure that each business has access to the New Forest Code postcards created last year by NFNPA, NFDC and Forestry England.

**Action LC**

**4.0. To receive the clerk's report**

- Working with E-mango, the clerk has updated the parish council website so that it meets all accessibility criteria. Menus have been updated and content amended ensuring straight forward navigation. Broadband and Hatchet Pond updates now have their own menu headings on the website.
- On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, Cllr Holmes and the clerk met a representative from Forestry England as well as a verderer and an agister at allotment 2. The site was inspected and the surrender of the parish council allotment lease for this site was agreed. The parish council will need to remove the fencing along the gravel track side of the allotment which was deemed to be unsafe. The clerk will ask the

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Lengthsman to carry out this work. Once this work is carried out, the council will return the land to Forestry England.

- With permission from Forestry England, the land is currently being used as back up grazing for a local commoner. In return for grazing the commoner will burn the remaining rubbish on the site, making sure that nails are removed.

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

- Cllr Mans confirmed that broadband speeds for fibre to the cabinet should reach 24 Mbps. These speeds should be achieved for properties within 1km of the cabinet.
- He confirmed that there have been 120 cases of Covid 19 per 100,000 across the New Forest in the past week. The levels are consistently coming down.
- The vaccination program is now being rolled out across the county. We haven't yet seen the effect of vaccines on hospitalisation but numbers should reduce.
- Pupils should be able to return to school by 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- Local elections will still take place on 6th May.
- HCC will hold a meeting to confirm the level of rise in the council tax. There is likely to be a 2% increase in general council tax and an additional 3% rise to cover rising costs of social care.
- Cllr Mans confirmed that his devolved budget for this financial year has now been spent. The funds will remain at £8000 for the next financial year.

**5.1. To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor.**

Cllr Husband congratulated HCC on the quality of their Covid data and intelligence site.

Cllr Gabzdyl asked for clarity on discussions between HCC and Network Rail over the proposed closure of the pedestrian railway line crossing at Wood Fiddle Cottages. The crossing is used by several walkers and cyclists from East Boldre.

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

None.

**7.0. Public session.**

None.

**8.0. Finance.**

8.1 To receive payments for February 2021 in accordance with the budget and to note bank reconciliation. (Circulated).

**Resolved:** Payments were received as shown on table below.

<b>East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule</b>				
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Bacs date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Payment</b>	<b>folio</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Royal Mail	20/01/2021	PO Box	£36.00	95
Plusnet	29/01/2021	parish council phone	£7.46	96
Parish Clerk	06/02/2021	Salary	£634.88	97
Parish Clerk	06/02/2021	expenses	£44.23	98
Microsoft	06/02/2021	Office 365	£5.99	99
<b>Total paid</b>			<b>£728.56</b>	
<b>Amount transferred to current account</b>			<b>£1,000.00</b>	72
<b>Receipts as at date</b>			<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bank interest	12/01/2021	monthly interest	£0.12	71
NFDC	20/01/2021	Covid 19 Payment	£575.00	70
<b>Total receipts</b>			<b>£575.12</b>	
<b>Bank reconciliation</b>				
<b>Balance as at date</b>				
HSBC Current			£1,308.12	
HSBC Savings			£13,452.03	
<b>Total</b>			<b>£14,760.15</b>	
<b>Net bank balance as at date</b>				
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows				
Opening balances			<b>£22,261.97</b>	
Add receipts			£24,351.35	
less payments			-£32,494.04	
uncleared cheques			0.00	
uncleared payments			£640.87	
<b>Total</b>			<b>£14,760.15</b>	

8.2 To review the parish council Financial Regulations (Circulated)

**Resolved:** Cllrs reviewed the financial regulations. Cllr Hawker requested that the clerk create a financial timeline. The financial regulations will be looked at again once has been completed. This will be during the first part of the new financial year.

**Action NC**

8.3 To review the parish council Risk Management (Circulated)

**Resolved:** Cllrs confirmed the review of the risk management policy and table.

8.4. To review the Asset Register (Circulated)

**Resolved:** The updated asset register was reviewed. Cllr Hawker requested that the emergency plan equipment be made the responsibility of the Emergency Plan Committee.

**Action NC**

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## 8.5. Review of 2020-21 budget to date (Circulated)

**Resolved:** the budget for 2020 -21 and the draft budget for 2021-22 are shown below

		19/20	20/21		21/22	
		Actual	Budget	YTD	Forecast	Budget
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Council business</b>						
Income		£15,046.00	£15,020.00	£15,010.00	£15,020.00	£16,010.00
Expenditure		£16,153.00	£17,230.00	£15,890.00	£17,705.00	£16,265.00
Expenditure as a % of precept		£107.69	£114.87	£105.93	£118.03	£101.66
Surplus (deficit)		-£1,107.00	-£2,210.00	-£880.00	-£2,685.00	-£255.00
<b>Projects</b>						
Income		£5,750.00	£3,000.00	£5,675.00	£5,675.00	£0.00
Expenditure		£10,572.00	£14,550.00	£11,590.00	£11,614.00	£2,875.00
Surplus (deficit)		-£4,822.00	-£11,550.00	-£5,915.00	-£5,939.00	-£2,875.00
<b>Allotments</b>						
Income		£2,123.00	£1,235.00	£1,572.00	£1,505.00	£1,500.00
Expenditure		£1,576.00	£3,450.00	£1,677.00	£2,130.00	£1,500.00
Surplus (deficit)		£547.00	-£2,215.00	-£105.00	-£625.00	£0.00
VAT recovered		£565.00	£1,000.00	£1,288.00	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
VAT paid		£1,013.00	£1,000.00	£2,530.00	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
net		-£448.00		-£1,242.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total surplus (deficit)</b>		<b>-£5,830.00</b>	<b>-£15,975.00</b>	<b>-£8,142.00</b>	<b>-£9,249.00</b>	<b>-£3,130.00</b>
Reserve b/f		£23,092.00		£17,262.00	£17,262.00	£8,013.00
Reserve c/f		£17,262.00		£9,120.00	£8,013.00	£4,883.00
Cash at bank		£22,262.00		£14,273.00	£13,013.00	
Adjustments						
Cash book balance		£22,262.00		£14,273.00	£13,013.00	
Reserves		£17,262.00		£9,273.00	£8,013.00	
Commitment		£5,000.00		£5,000.00	£5,000.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>£22,262.00</b>		<b>£14,273.00</b>	<b>£13,013.00</b>	
<b>Council business</b>						
Income	precept	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£16,000.00

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	bank interest	£46.00	£20.00	£10.00	£20.00	£10.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,046.00</b>	<b>£15,020.00</b>	<b>£15,010.00</b>	<b>£15,020.00</b>	<b>£16,010.00</b>
Expenditure	salary	£9,036.00	£8,000.00	£9,315.00	£10,000.00	£9,000.00
	stationery	£546.00	£800.00	£506.00	£550.00	£550.00
	travel	£387.00	£500.00	£164.00	£200.00	£350.00
	office	£267.00	£270.00	£368.00	£400.00	£400.00
	equipment	£408.00	£2,000.00	£649.00	£750.00	£600.00
	training	£220.00	£1,000.00	£53.00	£100.00	£500.00
	newsletter	£673.00	£500.00	£378.00	£400.00	£500.00
	hall hire	£318.00	£350.00	£8.00	£8.00	£300.00
	audit	£340.00	£250.00	£430.00	£430.00	£450.00
	insurance	£443.00	£500.00	£439.00	£439.00	£440.00
	defibrillators	£226.00		£428.00	£428.00	£450.00
	election exp.	£75.00	£60.00			
	football pitch	£225.00	£225.00	£225.00	£225.00	£225.00
	subscriptions	£1,177.00	£1,775.00	£1,236.00	£1,775.00	£1,500.00
	maintenance	£1,812.00	£1,000.00	£1,691.00	£2,000.00	£1,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£16,153.00</b>	<b>£17,230.00</b>	<b>£15,890.00</b>	<b>£17,705.00</b>	<b>£16,265.00</b>
<b>Projects</b>						
Income	grants	£5,500.00	£3,000.00	£5,020.00	£5,020.00	
	donations	£250.00		£655.00	£655.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,750.00</b>	<b>£3,000.00</b>	<b>£5,675.00</b>	<b>£5,675.00</b>	
Expenditure	EBOH salary	£3,635.00	£5,000.00	£2,389.00	£2,389.00	
	EBOH other	£406.00		£4,087.00	£4,111.00	
	grants	£6,530.00	£3,000.00	£1,184.00	£1,184.00	£575.00
	defibrillators		£2,000.00	£3,930.00	£3,930.00	£250.00
	seats		£50.00			£50.00
	bus shelters etc	£1.00	£500.00			£1,000.00
	notice boards		£1,000.00			£1,000.00
	public transport		£3,000.00			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,572.00</b>	<b>£14,550.00</b>	<b>£11,590.00</b>	<b>£11,614.00</b>	<b>£2,875.00</b>
<b>Allotments</b>						
Income	rent	£1,520.00	£1,235.00	£1,587.00	£1,587.00	£1,500.00
	rent refund			£-15.00	£-15.00	
	water	£603.00				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,123.00</b>	<b>£1,235.00</b>	<b>£1,572.00</b>	<b>£1,572.00</b>	<b>£1,500.00</b>
Expenditure	Rent,insurance	£806.00	£800.00	£774.00	£774.00	£550.00
	water	£274.00	£650.00	£339.00	£339.00	£350.00
	hedging	£340.00	£500.00		£200.00	£200.00
	fencing		£500.00		£200.00	£200.00
	maintenance	£156.00	£1,000.00	£564.00	£617.00	£200.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,576.00</b>	<b>£3,450.00</b>	<b>£1,677.00</b>	<b>£2,130.00</b>	<b>£1,500.00</b>

8.6 To discuss draft budget for 2021-22 (Circulated)

**Resolved:** Cllrs were happy with the proposed draft budget which will be agreed at the meeting in March.

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8.7. To confirm appointment of internal auditor.

**Resolved:** The clerk has booked the internal auditor for 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

8.8. To consider the recipients of the Covid 19 grant awarded by NFDC

The parish council received a Covid 19 support payment of £575. Cllr Hawker has circulated research on the local use of food banks.

**Resolved:** The funds will be awarded to New Forest Basics Food Bank who have offered support to 35 East Boldre residents since March 2020. They offer services including food deliveries to vulnerable, help with utility bills and financial advice.

Cllr Gabzdyl also informed the council that her husband has refurbished four laptop computers which are available on loan to residents who might require them for home schooling.

**9.0. To consider planning applications: 20/00794, 21/00079, 21/00039**

**Resolved:**

Application to vary condition 1 of planning permission 20/00794 Single storey extension; 1 No. window; 2 No. roof lanterns; 1 No. rooflight; 3 No. sun-pipes (demolition of conservatory) to allow permitted development rights.	FOREST PONIES COTTAGE, HATCHET LANE	5/1/21	We recommend PERMISSION, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.	9/2/21
Barn, stables and chicken shed	THORWALDS, MAIN ROAD, EAST BOLDRE, SO42 7WU	28/1/21	We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed below: The proposed materials are unsympathetic to the local environment. The scale of the barn is disproportionate to the size of the plot. The proposed barn and stables are too close to the plot boundary and are over 2.5m high, this will impact on the neighbour's amenities.	9/2/21
Single storey extensions	APRIL COTTAGE, WITHERS LANE, EAST BOLDRE, SO42 7WX	20/1/21	We recommend PERMISSION, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.	9/2/21

**10.0. To confirm review of Standing Orders** (Circulated) and other council policies (available on website)

**Resolved:** All policies have been checked, and updated appropriately.

**11.0. To confirm the review of members interests.**

**Resolved:** All Councillors confirmed members interests are up to date and amended where necessary.

**12.0 To consider a speaker for APA**

**Resolved:** Cllr Gabzdyl will contact Peter Dewbery to ask if he could give a talk on the upcoming census.

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

Cllr Hawker attended **NFNPA Quadrant meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February:**

**1 Lockdown 3—What it means for New Forest**

- Unseasonably high numbers of visitors.
- Heavy use of car parks particularly over weekends.
- High presence of Rangers supported by Forestry England and NPA.
- Damage to verges a concern as no legislation to say it is illegal to park on them. A consultancy transport company employed to explore a long-term legal action. Outcomes will be shared.
- Some car parks to be closed for annual repairs which could cause problems with parking.
- New signage to go up where car parks are closed to protect ground nesting birds during March to July.
- Predicting a very busy Spring and Summer and practical measures are currently being made to deal with identified issues.

**2 Local cycling and walking infrastructure (LCWIP)**

- HCC, NFDC, NPA, Forestry England, Wiltshire CC, Quadrant Chairs working together.
- This is a new project for the New Forest as a whole.
- Waterside LCWIP process is ahead of the rest of the Forest. Consultation will happen and then this will be integrated into the Forest plan.
- Focus is to plan, prioritise an infrastructure to encourage more walking and cycling wherever possible.
- There is to be a workshop in March and a representative from each Parish will be invited. (Cllr Hawker and Cllr Gabzdyl will attend).

**3 Design Guide**

- All responses to Government on Planning for the future being considered a response is expected in the Spring.
- The New Forest updated design guide is to go to planning committee the end of the month if agreed will go out to consultation possibly April /May.

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

To receive a broadband update.

To receive an update on the pedestrian railway line crossing at Wood Fiddley Cottages.

To confirm amendments to the emergency plan.

To receive an update on the Village Hub.

**15.0 To confirm the next Parish Council meeting as 7.00pm on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, it will be followed by the Annual Parish Assembly (at 8pm). This meeting will be held virtually due to Covid 19 restrictions.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman's signature:

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