

East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the School Fields Trust Hall
on Tuesday 13 January 2026

Councillors present:

Beverley Hawker (Chair), Mike Husband, Mike Urwin, Anna Rostand, Louise Cranton,

In attendance:

District Cllr Poole, County Cllr Mans, Sue James (Parish Clerk)

BH welcomed and wished everyone a happy new year.

1.0 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Moyse.

2.0 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

MH declared an interest in item 7 Village Hall.

3.0 To confirm minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025.

- 3.1** Item 5.1 BH drew attention to the £750 grant from Cllr Mans' devolved budget towards the Youth Drop In Centre and the £250 grant promised by Cllr Poole.

Item 6.1 BH and SJ meeting Hardy Trust shortly to finalise way forward

Item 12 Speed Camera. Swan Gan-Marsh (NFDC) confirmed that the current speed device does not collect any data. A SDR (software defined radio) will be used in future, which collects, hourly, the volume and speed of vehicles.

4.0 To receive Clerk's report**4.1 Allotments**

SJ reported that the meeting at the allotments with BH and SN had gone very well and that the site looked good. Hedge cutting, livestock policy and renting the vacant plots were discussed.

1. Hedge cutting has now taken place
2. SJ was asked to email allotment holders to gauge the likely renewals this year. An email has been sent to all plot holders.
3. SJ was asked to advertise vacant plots on website, Facebook, East Boldre & Beyond and the Hythe Herald in the new year. SJ will also contact other allotments with waiting lists regarding EB vacant plots. In the past month, 1 plot holder has given notice, 1 will take a plot in February and there has been 1 request for a plot.
4. Insurance has been renewed with a new insurer as previous insurer no longer insures allotments. Increase of £18 per year.
5. Water to the site has been turned off. However, it was reported that the stop tap was leaking. Bournemouth Water made an unaccompanied visit to the site (a booked

Chairman's signature:

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accompanied visit would not have been available until end of March). Engineer reported that the tap is fully turned off and that there is no evidence of a leak. Access to the taps would be required to investigate further and would require a booked visit. *SJ will arrange to meet with SN, to assess situation.*

6. Livestock Policy. SJ asked the Cllrs to confirm the decision taken in October 2023 not to issue bee keeping permits. BH explained it was for health and safety and insurance reasons. **Cllrs agreed.** *SJ to update bee keeping policy.*
SJ asked the Cllrs to approve a poultry keeping policy. Given the overhead in managing poultry on the site, BH proposed the council should continue the poultry licenses for the 3 plot holders who already held them, (6 chickens). These licenses are not transferable, and should the holder stop keeping chickens a new license would not be issued. **Cllrs agreed not to issue new licenses.** *SJ to update allotment policy.*
7. Cllrs were asked for their views on rent charged to new plot holders joining part way through the year. *SJ to liaise with Sway PC for their policy.*

4.2 Car Parking

As requested at the previous meeting, an email was sent to Richard Burke and Craig Harrison at Forestry England, with a copy to the local MP Julian Lewis, detailing the Parish Council's concerns regarding the introduction of car park charging and the effects the charges would have on the residents of the Forest. FE re-iterated the need to charge to provide funds for the maintenance of the carparks and to provide additional support to those managing the Forest. The charges would also bring the New Forest into line with the other FE sites. Information on the location of parking machines was provided, along with details on how parking at all carparks within the Forest could be paid for. FE are in the process of recruiting 10 new Rangers to police the car parks, provide assistance and prevent unauthorised parking. BH is attending a meeting of the New Forest Association and Dog Owners Association in January. MP Sir Julian Lewis will be present.

4.3 Hatchet Pond

The Council was unsure of the specific work currently happening at Hatchet Pond. *SJ to contact FE for further information.*

4.4 Emails

The migration of the Council emails to a new system has taken place. Two email addresses have not successfully migrated, and one email is experiencing issues with receiving and sending. *SJ to contact X-Net for help to resolve the problems.*

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

Cllr Mans reported that he had received a similar email from Forestry England regarding the rollout of the national car park charging scheme to the New Forest. He has concerns regarding the actual amount of money from charges that would be left to be spent on maintaining the carparks after the cost of the 10 new rangers. As Vice Chairman of NFNPA he is very unhappy and questions the validity of comparing the cost of membership of Forestry England to the likes of the National Trust.

Chairman's signature:

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There has been an extra-ordinary meeting of Hampshire County Council regarding the Local Authority Reorganisation. With regards to elections, Cllr Mans confirmed HCC will not be asking for an extension, there will be an election as planned. Cllr Mans expected that the future of the reorganisation would become much clearer by the spring.

The HCC budget meeting has been set for February.

Cllr Mans still has some money available for grants.

5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor

LC asked if money could be available for Wifi to the Schools Trust Hall. *LC to apply to Cllr Mans*

BH said she was pleased that a special school was opening in Pennington and asked if HCC had bid for funds from central government for hubs in the New Forest. Cllr Mans will investigate.

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

Cllr Poole wished to compliment Cllr Mans on his approach to LGR at HCC.

With regards to LGR, Cllr Poole said that if 5 local authorities were not possible, the New Forest joining with Southampton would be the only option, as trying to reorganise across many areas would be extremely difficult. As the Government has said that present authorities must be used within the reorganisation, it would probably take years to complete. Cllr Poole said that many local charities were very concerned that if the New Forest was to become part of a greater Southampton authority, they would be overlooked.

Cllr Poole stated that he had now run out of funds for grants.

6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor

What could parish councils do to lift the spirits of those at NFDC? Cllr Poole said that when the outcome of the reorganisation is made known, everyone will get on with implementing the new structure. It is the constantly moving goalposts that are having such a detrimental effect on everybody.

Cllr Mans said the postponement of elections was a way of the government saving millions of £s. However, many were unhappy that they were being denied the right to vote. Cllr Poole agreed with the sentiment but pointed out that any elections held, other than the necessary bi-elections, would be appointing Councillors to positions in Councils that won't exist after 2028.

7.0 To receive an update on progress towards the village hall refurbishment project

MH reported that there was a plan for key works, such as the removal of the back wall which contains asbestos, to begin 6 February. There were still many issues to be resolved. *SJ to keep Village Hall on agenda to allow for regular updates.*

8.0 To Receive Update on Local Government Re-organisation

Consultation period is now over. District Councils, NFPA and County Councils have sent recommendations to the Government. Implementation of LGR has been delayed until 2028. Comments previously recorded in Cllr Mans and Cllr Poole report.

Chairman's signature:

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9.0 Public Session

No Public session.

10.0 Finance

10.1 Members reviewed monthly accounts for November and December and noted bank reconciliations **Resolved**

The Lengthsman Scheme pot currently stands at £1177.09. A request was made in September 2025 for the following work to be carried out:

to paint railings at two locations on Main Road, including cleaning and cutting back brambles

the renovation of 3 village signs at Church Lane/Cripplegate, East End and near Furze Lane.

SJ to contact Lengthsman regarding completing work before the end of the financial year.

10.2 The Council was asked to ratify a £500 increase in the precept for next year. NFDC calculations show that this would result in less than £2 increase for houses in the Parish. The increase would help to provide funds for investment next year in the Parish. **Ratified**

10.3 The Bus Shelter. Work to repair the bus shelter, scheduled for this financial year has not started. *SJ to contact Harvey Carpentry for a start date and quote for work on the second shelter.*

11.0 To review applications:

There were no applications to review.

MH raised query as to why Council had received planning application decisions on applications that hadn't been notified. *SJ to contact NFNPA planners for explanation.*

12.0 To receive reports from external meetings

BH has been contacted regarding an accident in the village. It was at the Chapel Lane Junction. No one was hurt, but it was caused by cars parked close to the junction preventing a proper view of the traffic on the main road. BH discussed with PSCO. There are no double yellow lines, so nothing currently can be done.

13.0 Agenda items for next meeting

1. MH – Village Hall Progress
2. BH – The Handy Trust potential for detached youth work provision following meeting
3. BH – Feedback from meeting with New Forest Association and Dog Owners Association

14.0 Date of next meeting

The next parish council meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 10 February 2026 at the School Fields Trust Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Chairman's signature:

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