

East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the School Fields Trust Hall
on Tuesday 10 March 2026

Councillors present:

Beverley Hawker (Chair), Mike Husband, Mike Urwin, Ian Moyse.

In attendance:

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

BH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.0 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Rostand.

2.0 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

MH declared an interest in item 10.2 Village Hall.

3.0 To confirm minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February.

- 3.1** MU requested that SJ send an email to Forestry England if the documentation promised at the Quadrant meeting hadn't been received. An email has already been sent.

4.0 To receive Clerk's report

4.1 Allotments

1. Advertisements for vacant plots have been delayed due to negotiations regarding the lease with FE. *SJ to post adverts to website, write to Lymington Town Council, East Boldre and Beyond.*
2. Following communications with FE, it became apparent that a new lease would not be in place for 1st April. An extension to the current lease has been negotiated.
3. New tenancy agreements and invoices will be sent out to existing plot holders over the next few weeks, with new 4 pence per m2 water charge. We have confirmation of 1 new plot holder.
4. BH and SJ will attend a meeting with the Allotment Committee on 24th March to discuss plans for the coming year.

4.2 Councillor Vacancies

NFDC were informed of the resignation of Cllr Cranton. The vacancy notice has been posted at NFDC, on the EBPC website and all the Parish notice boards to give Parish residents the statutory 14 working days for 10 requests for an election. NFDC has not received the 10 requests, therefore EBPC may co-opt a new Cllr. *SJ to post advertisement on website, East Boldre and Beyond and notice boards.*

Chairman's signature:

Date:

4.3 Lengthsman

The Lengthsman has completed the work requested on the original list. The invoice has been approved for Brockenhurst PC to pay. SJ has asked for a balance of the funds that were available this year and confirmation that this can be carried over into next year's budget. EBPC has confirmed with Brockenhurst PC that we wish to participate in the scheme next year.

4.4 Planning Notices.

SJ needs to establish the appropriate person to contact regarding Cllrs concerns re lack of notification of applications and decisions. *BH suggested David Isley. MU and IM to put together examples of concerns. SJ will then send an invitation to DI to next parish council meeting.*

4.5 Defibrillators

As one of the defibs is no longer under guarantee, and the other two are approaching that position, £2,500 has been ring fenced from the budget to replace the units as and when necessary.

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

KM suggested advertising the vacant Cllr post in Lymington Times and agreed that inviting DI to next Parish meeting was a good idea. KM believes that FE are beginning to realise that the transition to charging for car parking will not be smooth as consequences of the action have not been considered.

KM had nothing new to report regarding LGR other than he was expecting a decision by the end of the month, after which there would be another period of public consultation. He reiterated that the government were determined to go through with LGR.

The County Council has increased their portion of the council tax by 4.99%, the maximum permitted. Even so this increase is not going to be enough to fully fund such things as social care.

KM informed the Cllrs that he wouldn't be standing at the upcoming election as he was retiring. KM will also be leaving the East Boldre Education Committee and reported that there was a substantial amount of funds available in the budget. BH thanked KM for his work with EBPC and hoped that he would be able to attend his final EB parish council meeting in April. As this may not be possible KM was extended an invitation to the May PC meeting.

5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor

BH thanked KM for his email in reply to the Cllrs concerns over the state of the roads. What plan is in place to repair the roads. KM said that roads should be re-surfaced not repaired and hoped the new Unitary Authorities would have the funding to do so. Recent re-organisations had also made it difficult to control contractors. BH asked how long it would take to deal with the dangerous roads. KM reported that more money was being pumped into repairs. IM asked where the money had gone that had supposed to have been for road maintenance. KM said that only one third of the tax collected from Hampshire registered vehicles comes to HCC (there are more cars registered in Hampshire than any other county). Money also goes to Highways England who are responsible for motorways and trunk roads and all roads within a 2-mile radius.

Chairman's signature:

Date:

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

With regards to the planning concerns, DP suggested that the Cllrs looked for support from HALC as the District and County councils would soon disappear. HALC do training on the planning process, about which he has received very positive feedback. If DI was unable to accept the Cllrs' invitation it would be because the department is very short on resources and budget.

The NFDC budget and precept had been set, and it was a balanced budget. Money from central government has been cut and NFDC had worked hard to come up with a balanced budget that expected funds promised by the government would not arrive.

With regards to LGR, NFDC have been advised that the decision is imminent, probably within the next 10 days. BH congratulated DP on his nomination as the conservative candidate for county councillor.

6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor

BH said that there were a lot of ABNB properties in EB, some in the properties' gardens, some 2nd homes. Are 2nd homes paying business rates if registered as businesses to avoid the 2nd home council tax and if so, does this include rubbish collection, as businesses are supposed to pay for business refuse collection? BH said that it was becoming increasingly difficult to contact the planners. MH suggested that this was due to homeworking. DP didn't have the answer. BH thanked both the KM and DP for attending the PC meetings.

7.0 Public Session.

No matters raised.

8.0 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications or decisions to review.

26/00163CONS Homestead. Following the Cllrs' concerns over the removal of the Cypress trees as they formed part of the conditions for a successful planning appeal for a 2 storey garage building, Nik Gruber reported that the hedge wasn't worthy of a TPO and as such the council could raise no objections to the removal. However, as the work would be contrary to the appeal decision, the case has been passed to the planners for investigation.

9.0 Finance

9.1 Members reviewed monthly accounts for February and noted bank reconciliations.

BH explained that there were no concerns regarding expenditure to date and our predicted carry forward into general reserves for 26/27.

There could be minor fluctuations up or down to the current forecast for March. Our predicted closing balance general reserves is £21,823. From this £1,400 is committed to Youth provision delayed until end of April/May plus £2,500 for a replacement defibrillator. This leaves £17,923 in General reserves. We are therefore meeting our reserve policy with some headroom. **Resolved**

10.0 To receive reports from external meetings

10.1 The Handy Trust Youth Hub

BH and SJ met with Sofia from the Handy Trust. The Youth Hub will meet initially in the vestry of Chapel Stores (until work is completed on the village hall) on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30pm. It will be run on a one month's trial basis, starting end of April,

Chairman's signature:

Date:

beginning of May. If the trial is successful a one-year contract will be taken up. It is hoped 10 children will attend each week.

10.2 Village hall refurbishment project

Most of the demolition has been completed, other than at the north end, where the new extension will be positioned. MH hopes to have a completion date for the next PC meeting.

10.3 New Forest Consultative Panel

Regarding the local plan, the NFDC need to find 22,500 new homes by 2043. They have a guaranteed 6,800 homes, with the possibility another 6,700. They are currently looking at all sites and consulting with relevant parties regarding infrastructure. More treatment plants are planned and means for dealing with refuse and recycling. They are currently looking at small sites of between 30 and 50 houses on the edge of or just outside the forest. The consultation period finished at the end of the month.

NFDC council tax will increase by 3% to include grants for training.

Covert CCTV cameras have been used across the district to try to prevent fly tipping. They have been very successful.

FE have been working on habitat restoration and have spent £250,000 on car park work, restricted to the car park entrances only. Craig Harrison and Richard Burke made it quite clear that they were not interested in any push back over car park charges.

10.4 School Fields Trust Hall

Cllr Cranton's resignation means a new representative for the SFT is required. The minutes from the latest meeting stated SFT has secured 2 grants for repairs to the roof and solar panels. Further work will include the refurbishment of the small room to be marketed for small meetings.

SFT will be running another scarecrow competition this year.

A Commoning event weekend is planned for later in 2026

10.5 Speed Watch

Speed Watch this month had noticed an increase in the number of vehicles. However, no one was caught speeding. More sessions are planned for this month.

11.0 Agenda items for next meeting

1. MH – Village Hall Progress
2. Meeting to commence with a presentation on 'The Waterside outreach minibus service' by Yvonne Sayer.
3. Possible visit by David Isley NFNPA Planning.

12.0 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 14th April 2026, at the School Fields Trust Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: