

**East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual meeting held at the School Fields Trust Hall
on Tuesday 10th May 2026**

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

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

Presentation by My Home Made Better

My Home Made Better (The Energy Centre) is a Southampton based charity offering free advice to the residents of Hampshire regarding energy saving and implementing green solutions, including information and guidance on the grants that are available. Their belief is that every home should be warm, energy-efficient, and affordable to run.

Supported by 12 District Councils, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and Hampshire County Council, their aim is to make it easier for local residents to save money, reduce energy waste, and create warmer, healthier homes. So far, they have helped over 2,000 residents.

From initial contact, callers are passed to the appropriate team to deal with their query, when general questions will be asked about the home. Different solutions will be discussed along with the possibility of grants or other means of funding and companies that can supply the solutions.

Further details will be on the Parish website, along with a link to the My Home Made Better website.

BH Welcomed everyone to the meeting

1.0 Election of Chairman

MH proposed BH and IM seconded. Resolved unanimously to elect BH as Chairman.

2.0 Signature of Chairman's Declaration and Acceptance of Office

Completed

3.0 Election of Vice Chairman

BH proposed IM and MH seconded. Resolved unanimously to elect IM as Vice Chairman.

Signature of Vice-Chairman's Declaration and Acceptance of Office completed.

4.0 To review Councillor's allocation of responsibilities.

All Councillors have general responsibilities

MH – Representative on Village Hall Committee, responsible for Broadband, Emergency Planning and Representative for NFALC.

IM – Responsible for Finance and Planning and representative on the New Forest Consultancy Panel.

BH – Responsible for Allotments, Finance and Youth Provision.

AR – Responsible for Highways and Transport, East Boldre Community Stores and the School Field's Trust.

MU – Responsible for Emergency Planning, Planning and representative at the Quadrant meetings.

Chairman's signature:

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5.0 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Rostand and Cllr Urwin.

6.0 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

MH declared an interest in item 14.2 Village Hall.

7.0 To confirm minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2026.

- 7.1 4.6** BH reported that the Councillors had attended a meeting with David Ilseley and the NFNPA planners on 28th April, which would be discussed in 14.4 other follow up meetings.

8.0 To receive Clerk's report**8.1 Allotments**

i 28 plotholders have renewed and paid for their plots with a further 4 having confirmed they are renewing. 1 plot holder has not been renewed but half of the plot has been taken by an existing plotholder. 4 new allotmenters have taken plots. *SJ to send reminders and post new advertisements for vacant plots.*

ii The allotment risk assessment and inspection took place on 21st April. The risk assessment will be reviewed under Guidance 13.4. An email was sent to all plotholders reminding them not to enter, remove or leave things on other plots without the express permission of the plotholder, including vacant plots. Reports have been received of post markers and produce being removed from plots.

iii Following the discovery of a leaking tap, the water was turned off for a few days. A temporary fix was put in place to allow the water to be turned back on until a new tap could be purchased and installed. This has now been implemented.

8.2 Audit

The Audit took place on 1st May. Preparation was lengthy and complicated due to having 4 different clerks, all with different methods of working during the year. There has also been a change in the AGAR for 25/26. Rules have been tightened regarding Data control and GDPR. The Audit highlighted the need for a data map. A draft is currently being written to be presented at the next Parish meeting.

BH thanked the Clerk for all her hard work preparing for the audit and congratulated her on the outcome. Points raised by the internal auditor can be easily addressed.

8.3 VAT

The VAT return for the year ending 31st March 26 has been submitted and the funds have been received from HMRC.

9.0 To receive a report by the County and District Councillor for East Boldre

DP confirmed that following the recent elections, he would be the County Councillor for the next 2 years. There will be elections in 2027 for the new Unitary Authorities, with a 1 year transition period. By April 2028, NFDG and HCC will disappear. Mayoral elections will be held in 2028 followed by the General election in 2029. DP confirmed he will be both our District and County Councillor for the next year.

Whilst the Conservatives retained Brockenhurst, overall control of the County Council was lost. No one party has enough seats to run the Council on its own. Discussions are on going

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with a decision expected by 21st May. NFDC is also in a position with no overall control. Reaching an agreement to run the CC will be difficult due to the way in which some campaigns were run across the County. At this point none of the Councillors know their responsibilities. DP has volunteered to be the CC representative on the School's Trust Board and if offered would like a seat on the NNPA. With the huge area covered by the proposed Mid Hampshire Authority and the splitting off of the waterside causing concern, it is very worrying that there is no authority focused on the Forest.

9.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor

IM asked how the LGR decisions were reached.

DP said it appeared to be a political decision regarding the expansion of cities. Mid Hampshire is now left as a Rural Authority with 100s of miles of highways and a high proportion of older people. How would this be paid for?

MH reported seeing the contents of his recycling bin being emptied into his general waste bin by the refuse collectors. DP asked MH to send him an email so that it can be investigated.

10.0 Public Session.

Two members of the Public attended the meeting to gain an insight into what it's like to be a councillor

11.0 Planning Applications

There were no applications to be discussed this month.

12.0 Finance

12.1 Members reviewed monthly accounts for April and noted bank reconciliations.

BH said that the final closing reserve for 25/26 on 30th April was £18,483. This will be shown as the General Reserve carried forward into 26/27. However, commitments of £1,400 for the youth Dop In Centre (grant from NFDC and HCC and carried over from last year), £2,500 to replace an aging defib and £225 rent not claimed by FE for the football field **reduced the projected General reserve to £14,358**. Whilst this is still in excess of the reserve policy, funds need to be set aside to replace the other defibs which will soon no longer be under guarantee. **Resolved (Appendix A)**

12.2 To approve full precept

The Audit highlighted that whilst previous minutes recorded the agreement by the Council to the £500 increase in the precept, the agreement to the full amount of the precept wasn't recorded. Councillors were asked to confirm their agreement to a precept of £18,000.

Agreed

12.3 AGAR Return Section 2 for review and approval

Section 2 approved.

12.4 Audit Results

The Audit was successfully completed. However, the following observations were made:

i The Parish bank account requires a debit card so that the clerk doesn't need to submit expenses for small purchases.

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IM suggested that there may also be more protection made for purchases made by debit card than bank transfer. *SJ to let council know if there is a need for a card.*

ii Agreement to full Precept not previously minuted. **Resolved 12.2**

iii The Locum salary should be other expenses not staff costs in AGAR. **Resolved AGAR figures amended prior to approval by councillors 12.3**

iv All finance documents to be included as part of minutes and all bank statements signed by both Chair and Vice Chair. **Resolved all finance documents attached to minutes.**

13.0 Governance

13.1 Review Parish Council insurance renewal.

Renewal of insurance with Clear Councils for 2026/27 approved. *SJ to investigate other providers for better fit for next year. Suggestion to use Chatgtp for comparison*

13.2 To confirm membership of Hants Association of Local Councils (HALC) and Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

Agreed

13.3 To Agree Finance Risk Management record.

Agreed

13.4 To review allotment risk management record

Reviewed

13.5 To review asset register

Reviewed and agreed

13.6 To declare conflict of interest with BDO external Auditors

No interest declared

14.0 To Receive reports from external meetings

14.1 The Handy Trust Youth Hub

BH said 4 trial sessions will be held in the Community Stores Vestry starting 16th June for children aged 11 to 16. If successful, the drop in centre will move to the Village Hall at the start of the new school year in September. BH has spoken to GA informally regarding the use of the hall on Tuesdays. In the event that the trial doesn't take place or is unsuccessful, the School Field's Trust has been approached regarding provision of sports activities requested by younger children in the Parish. No reply has been received as yet. BH said we are waiting for leaflets regarding the drop in centre to hand out to children as they leave the school buses

14.2 Village Hall refurbishment project

MH reported good progress, but the roof at the back has a large dip. The committee are currently trying to find a low-cost solution. The refurbishment currently has a shortfall of £35k and intends to launch crowd funding but needs to establish the cost of the roof first. MH is pressing for the figure for next week. MH said that £450k had already been raised for the redevelopment and that the kitchen was fitted by volunteers and the hall decorated by volunteers. It is hoped that the Hall will be finished by the end of July.

14.3 Speed Watch

2 sessions of speed watch were carried out at Hatchet Lane. 260 cars passed in 1 hour, with one speeding, that has been reported. It's important to note that whilst

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260 cars came from Beaulieu, the same number passed in the other direction. At the session in Heath Lane, 65 cars passed, none of which were speeding. 3 more sessions are anticipated in the next couple of weeks. The Speed Watch team are looking for volunteers so that they can carry out more sessions.

14.4 Any other meetings

i Meeting with NFNPA planners

BH, MU and MH attended the meeting at Lymington Town Hall with DI, a planning enforcement officer and a head of planning. The planners were very helpful and have since sent a link to the planning portal. They confirmed that the Parish was not informed of NMAs (non-material amendments) as they don't have enough staff. The Parish isn't informed of the siting of caravans because there is a statutory right to have a caravan in your garden. The Councillors said that if they receive an application for substantial outbuildings, they always suggest that there should be a condition that they are not used for stand-alone accommodation. Is this enforced by the planners? The enforcement officers rely on residents asking them to investigate a possible breach of planning. When asked why there was no explanation on the decisions regarding appeals, the planners must decide whether to go to appeal based on being fairly confident of winning.

ii Parish Magazine

The new Church Parish Magazine is almost ready. It will be free to all residents in the 3 Parishes of East Boldre, Beaulieu and Exbury. BH has offered to deliver the magazine to East Boldre Residents and will be looking for volunteers to help her. MH said it may be possible for the lane reps to deliver these with the crowd funding newsletters.

iii The School Field's Trust will now only be holding a Commoners day rather than a weekend.

iv FE Rangers

MU reported that a resident of East Boldre was approached by a ranger/warden, when they temporarily stopped on the verge after exiting the driveway in order to shut the gate. They were told to move immediately, or they would be issued with a ticket. *SJ to write to FE Southern to confirm rules re parking/stopping on verges and if parking tickets can be issued, by whom.*

15.0 Agenda items for next meeting

- 15.1 Draft Data Map**
- 15.2 Review and adopt Standing Orders**
- 15.3 Review and adopt Financial Regulations**
- 15.4 Co-opt new Councillor**
- 15.5 Youth Drop In Centre Trial**
- 15.6 Village Hall Progress**

16.0 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 9th June 2026, at the School Fields Trust Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date:

Appendix A

Budget v Actuals 2026-27

30-Apr-26

Y/E March 31 2027

Budget**Actual**

F/C to March 27

2027/28**Budget****INCOME**

	£	£	
Precept	18,000.00	9,000.00	18000
	£	£	
Bank Interest	350.00	22.83	350
	£	£	
Allotments	2,430.00	1,665.88	2430
Grants		£ -	

£	£	£	
20,780.00	10,688.71	# 20,780.00	£ -

EXPENDITURE

	£	£	
Administration Salaries	9,900.00	975.49	9900
	£	£	
Homeworking	312.00	26.00	312
	£	£	
Travel	100.00	£ -	100
Locum Support	£ -	£ -	0
	£	£	
Office supplies	500.00	46.88	500
	£	£	
Subscriptions	1,650.00	20.60	1650
	£	£	
Office Equipmt	250.00	£ -	250
	£	£	
Training	300.00	£ -	300
	£	£	
Meeting costs	450.00	24.00	450
	£	£	
Audit	200.00	£ -	200
	£	£	
Insurance	525.00	£ -	525
Elections	£ -	£ -	
Printing	£ -	£ -	0

£	£	£	
14,187.00	1,092.97	# 14,187.00	£ -

	£	£	
Community Defibrillators	450.00	£ -	2950
Speedwatch	£ -	£ -	
	£	£	
Football pitch	250.00	£ -	475
Parish	£	£	
Maintenance	2,000.00	£ -	2000
	£	£	
S137 Grants	1,000.00	500.00	1000

Chairman's signature:

Date:

	Youth Provision	£ 2,616.00			4016	
	Noticeboards	£ 1,000.00	£ -		1000	
		£ 7,316.00	£ 500.00	# 11,441.00	£ -	
Allotments	Administration	£ 700.00	£ 70.00		700	
	Refunds	£ -	£ -			
	Rent/Insurance	£ 800.00	£ 495.50		800	
	Water	£ 450.00	£ -		450	
	Hedging	£ 400.00	£ -		400	
	Fencing	£ -	£ -			
	Maintenance	£ 700.00	£ -		700	
		£ 3,050.00	£ 565.50	# 3,050.00	£ -	
Total Expenditure		£ 24,553.00	£ 2,158.47	# 28,678.00	£ -	
Net position	Allotments	-£ 620.00	£ 1,100.38	-£ # 620.00	£ -	
	Council overall	-£ 3,773.00	£ 8,530.24	-£ # 7,898.00	£ -	
VAT paid			£ 11.62			
VAT refund			£ 542.11			
Opening Balances	General Reserve	£ 22,256.82	£ 22,256.82	£ # 22,256.82		
Closing Balance	General Reserve	£ 18,483.82	£ 31,317.55	# 14,358.82		
Cashbook Total	Deposit Account		£ 30,407.69			
	Current Account		£ 909.86			
	Total		£ 31,317.55			

Chairman's signature:

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East Boldre Parish Council Bank reconciliation
As at 30 April 2026

Year ending 31 March 2027

Cash book	Opening balance (01/04/26)	£22,256.82
	Total receipts	£11,230.82
	Total payments	£2,170.09
	Closing balance	£31,317.55

Bank balances	Deposit account	£30,407.69
	Current account	£909.86
		£31,317.55

Reconciling items

unpresented cheques

£0.00

Closing Balance

£31,317.55

Cllr Bev Hawker.....
Chairman
Date.....

Mrs S James
Responsible Financial Officer
Date.....

Chairman's signature:

Date:

Apr-26**List of Receipts
and
Payments****Council: 12th May 2026**

	Income	
		Receipts Received
HSBC	Bank Interest	£22.83
TFR	From Instant access account	£500.00
HMRC	VAT refund Q4 25/26	£542.11
NFDC	First Precept Payment	£9,000.00
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£28.07
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£97.68
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£38.79
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£96.60
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£49.35
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£47.53
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£51.21
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£32.08
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£70.63
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£31.10
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£128.00
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£69.92
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£60.40
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£55.70
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£84.70
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£75.60
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£139.63
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£55.54
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£60.15
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£86.18
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£31.50
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£37.50
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£26.88
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£40.04
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£67.20
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£68.38
Plot Holder	Allotment Rent	£35.52
Total Income		£ 11,730.82

Payee	Item Description	Payment amount	Type	Authority
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Chairman's signature:

Date:

EE Ltd	Phone charge	£ 9.38	DDR	Contractual
REJUVENATE	Office 365	£ 24.72	DDR	Contractual
PARISH CLERK	Parish Clerk April Salary	£ 753.50	BP	Contractual
ROYAL MAIL FINANCE	PO Box	£ 45.00	DDR	Contractual
School Fields Trust	Rent of Hall for Parish meeting	£ 24.00	BP	contractual
School Fields Trust	Grant	£ 500.00	BP	Delegated
Forestry England	Allotment Lease	£ 345.00	BP	Contractual
HMRC	PAYE/NIC Q4 25/26	£ 317.99	DDR	Contractual
NSALG	Allotment Society membership	£ 150.50	BP	Delegated
Total Expenditure		£ 2,170.09		

Council had the legal power to make all payments

All payments were pre-authorised or made under delegation

Plot holder names withheld

Chairman's signature:

Date: