East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of Parish meeting held at East Boldre Village Hall
on Tuesday 13th October 2026

Councillors present:
Bev Hawker (Chair), Mike Urwin, Mike Husband, Robert Kitcher, Anna Rostand

In attendance:
County and District Cllr Dan Poole, Sue James Parish Clerk

BH Welcomed everyone to the meeting

1.0 To accept apologies for absence
None

2.0 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda
None

3.0 To confirm minutes of Parish Council meetings held on the 8thSeptember
Cllrs approved the minutes of meetings held on 8th September.

4.0 To receive Clerk's report

4.1 Banking
SJ reported that she hadn't yet been able to visit the banks in Lymington with regards to an alternative to HSBC.

4.2 Lengthsman
Still no news from the lengthsman regarding painting the signposts and telephone boxes. *SJ to chase with email*

4.3 Planning at Penerley Farm
The status of the application is 'Appeal Lodged'.*SJ will keep Councillors informed of any developments.*

4.4 Vice Chair resignation
NFDC have been informed of IM's resignation, and the official notice of vacancy has been posted. NFDC have confirmed the Parish Council must try to appoint a replacement Councillor even though we are very close to the May elections.

4.5 Emergency Generator Insurance
SJ has received details of the generator from MU. A way forward with storage has been established and confirmation of ownership by the Parish Council. *SJ to contact insurance company regarding insuring equipment.*

4.6 Minstead Letter
An email has been sent to Minstead Parish Council confirming East Boldre Parish Council's support for the letter regarding the redirection of traffic along small unsuitable roads.

5.0 To receive a report by the County and District Councillor for East Boldre
County Council Business
DP reported that beyond 2027, the HCC were looking at a budget deficit of £200 million. As

funds for children and adults' services are ring fenced, the effects of this deficit will be most likely felt in road maintenance. HCC had tried to complete as many repairs as possible through the summer, often in difficult conditions, but there were simply more potholes than money available. DP is on the Children and Young People's select committee which he finds very interesting.

District Council Business

There was a full NFDC council meeting. Although good news that the Hampshire LGR has been withdrawn, the general consensus is that it hasn't gone away altogether.

Parking charges featured heavily at the meeting. NFDC agreed at the start of this term that parking charges would only go up in line with inflation. The call for a local rate for parking within the Forest is supported by both HCC and NFDC. A motion has been passed by both Councils to write to FE to bring the New Forest in line with other FE sites regarding local parking.

5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County/District Councillor

BH asked how much LGR had cost HCC and NFDC. DP said that it had cost NFDC in excess of £1.8 million without the cost of the loss of employees etc. He didn't know the cost to HCC, but both councils would be asking the Government to refund their costs. DP said that one benefit regarding the LGR process was that councils were looking outside their own council for solutions, by cooperating and sharing resources with one another. He asked if that might be something East Boldre might look into. MU said that he felt East Boldre was already in that position as members of the SE Quadrant.

BH asked if there was any impact on Hampshire due to the new Mayoral system. DP replied that the system was already set up and being paid for. The new Mayor would come into force in 2028 and at the moment was based in Portsmouth. However, there was a huge lobby to bring the election forward to 2027 to tie in with the Parish and District elections. Once in place residents in Hampshire will have 4 tier governance.

AR asked whether there was anything to be done to reduce the speeding across the forest which is resulting in many injuries and fatalities to the donkeys and ponies. Speed bumps were suggested but these are no longer installed. Road narrowing installations do slow the traffic down, but irresponsible drivers speed up to get through the pinch points. More speed watch sessions could help and possibly the installation of the flashing signs that show speed and happy or sad faces.

MH asked about residents' complaints regarding the damage to the cattle grid at Portmore, which has needed traffic lights and road closures. DP said that apparently the engineer believed the damaged had been caused by the extreme heat. DP will visit the site after the meeting.

BH asked about the criteria for DP's grants. For the District Council grant DP completes the application but askes for input. For the County Council grant an application is completed and it is for DP to approve.

6.0 Public Session.

None

Chairman's signature: Date:

7.0 Planning Applications

7.1 New Applications

Application Ref	Type	Address	Description	EBPC comments	Date
26/01081FULL	Full	Fairwinds, Main Road, East Boldre, Brockenhurst SO42 7WL	1no. rear dormer	Recommend permission but accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under delegation and choose option 1	13/10/26
26/01067VAR	Variation/remove conditions	Forest Lodge, Heath Lane, East Boldre, Brockenhurst SO42 7WF	Application to remove condition 2 of planning approval 87/35199 for two storey addition and two storey extension	Accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under delegation and choose option 5	13/10/26

To view full documents 'cntrl click' on application number

8.0 Finance

8.1 Members reviewed monthly accounts for September 26 and noted bank reconciliations, Receipts and Payments. Approved

8.2 To consider projects for 27/28 that may impact budget

- Maintenance and insurance of new emergency generator
- Continuing with Youth Drop In
- Election costs
- Cost of external auditor as income will breach £25,000 due to grant for emergency generator. (2026 cost £210 plus VAT)

9.0 Governance

9.1 Parish Councillor Vacancy

NFDC have been informed of Vice chair resignation and vacancies. Official advertisements have been posted.BH asked if any of the councillors are interested in standing for vice chair. Several councillors are going to approach residents regarding becoming a councillor. BH will inset flyers into Parish magazine.

9.2 Review Health and Safety Policy

Current policy reviewed and approved with one small amendment.

9.3 Appoint Internal Auditor

Councillors approved the appointment of 'Do The Numbers' as the internal Auditor

10.0 To Receive reports from external meetings

10.1 Youth Drop In Centre

Unfortunately a member of the Handy Trust died unexpectedly so HT said they could not attend session on 9th Oct at last minute. 11 children turned up so the session was

run by BH and MH. The children ranged in age from 10-14 years. The main Hall will be used going forward as extra room will be needed especially through the winter.

10.2 Speed watch

Speed watch session will be held later this month. Still looking to recruit volunteers.

10.3 Village Hall refurbishment project

Fabulous opening. The hall was packed with people. MH stood down as a trustee and chair. Councillors thanked and congratulated him on 14 years of service.1 new trustee has been appointed and there is 1 prospective trustee. Chair is yet to be appointed. MH said there should be a Parish Councillor on the committee of EBVH and SFT. MH volunteered for EBVH and was approved. AR is already representative at SFT

10.4 Emergency Planning

The Emergency Planning Committee was formally appointed as a sub-committee of the Parish Council. *SJ to draw up terms of reference*

Emergency Generator

MUpton has received the £15,000 grant for the generator. The funds are currently held by EBVH but will be transferred to the PC. The money will also be used to purchase a trailer and shipping container to enable the generator to be kept securely at the Fruit Farm. The funds are held in a 30-day savings account at EBVH. The Councillors agreed that should any purchases need to be made prior to the funds being transferred, the PC will fund the purchase. BH praised MU for all of his hard work in securing the generator.

10.5 Allotment Inspection

A visit was paid to the allotments by BH and SJ, to establish the condition of the site regarding tyres, rubbish, cultivation and adherence to allotment rules. Overall, the site was very well kept and a huge improvement in both condition and the number of rented plots. Only 10 plots remain unrented. Chair EBAA has been asked to arrange for the collection of tyres through Fawley PC. Tyres will need to be collected into 1 pile. There will be a tyre amnesty to allow tyres to be collected. No tyres will be allowed on site in future and any that aren't collected will need to be removed immediately at plot holders expense.

Empty plots need to be strimmed and sprayed. PH has started work.

Some plot holders still haven't paid. *SJ will send letter with a payment by date, or the PC will take back the plot.*

Bonfires will be allowed out of season, but EBAA must be informed in advance, and they must not be left unattended.

On renewal every plot holder to sign to confirm all rubbish and materials not permitted will be removed when plot is vacated.

Area to site burnable rubbish – permission to be obtained prior to depositing rubbish

How can rubbish be removed from site as a one off? Possible skip. How can items being placed in skip be policed etc? PC have been approached and are supportive.

The allotment rules need to be re-visited and 'Toughened up'. 3 strikes and you're out?

Extra people on the allotment committee to ease the burden on SB, SL and DR and provide extra eyes to report problems with plots so that they can be addressed before things get out of hand.

Plots need to be clearly marked. One large post with Plot number and EBPC markings

Plot holders who haven't cultivated their plots to receive a letter reminding them that the contract states the plot must be cultivated.
SJ to arrange for allotment hedge to be cut
MH congratulated BH on the improvements in the allotment site

10.6 Any other meetings

Richard Williams, the community policeman will be holding a property and bike marking session on 5th December in the Village shop carpark. He will also be distributing free property marking kits. *SJ to create poster*

11.0 Agenda items for next meeting

11.1 Agree Draft Budget
11.2 Agree Precept request
11.3 Youth Drop In Centre Feedback
11.4 Speedwatch
11.5 Emergency Planning/generator
11.5 Councillor vacancies/ Vice chair position

12.0 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 10th November 2026, at East Boldre Village Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Chairman's signature: Date: