

**East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall
on Tuesday 11 February 2025**

Councillors present:

Beverley Hawker (Chair), Mike Husband, Mike Urwin, Anna Rostand, Ian Moyse

In attendance:

1 member of public, County Cllr Mans, District Cllr Poole, Katie Walding (Locum Parish Clerk)

1.0 To accept apologies for absence

Cllrs Cranton and Morrissey had offered apologies for being unable to attend.

2.0 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3.0 To confirm minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2025.

3.1 Matters arising

BH noted that in response to the Government consultation on Standards in public life, a working party would meet on 18 Feb to agree response for submission before 26 Feb.

BH thanked Cllr Poole for his input at the previous meeting; members were fortunate to have both Cllr Poole and Cllr Mans both in attendance, noting that fast track has been confirmed for Hampshire.

4.0 To receive Clerk's report

Both NFDC and NFNPA have launched reviews of their respective local plans:

The New Forest National Park Authority has published the first public consultation document as part of its review of the local planning policies covering the National Park area. The 'Direction of Travel' consultation document (and response form) is available on our website via the link below and hard copies are also available on request.

Communities, residents, landowners, parish councils, businesses, developers and interest groups in the New Forest National Park are all invited to comment on the Local Plan review.

Please submit your comments between 4 February and 18 March 2025:

- Online at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan2025
- By post to: Policy Team, National Park Authority, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington SO41 9ZG
- Or email policy@newforestnpa.gov.uk

You can also discuss the review of the Local Plan with National Park Authority staff, and give your views at these public drop-in events:

- Monday 24 February: Bramshaw Village Hall, 2pm – 7pm
- Tuesday 25 February: Hyde Memorial Hall, 1.30pm – 6.30pm

Chairman's signature:

Date:

- Monday 3 March: Brockenhurst Village Hall, 2pm – 7pm
- Friday 7 March: Lyndhurst Community Centre, 2pm – 7pm.

Updates to website include a poster from Minstead Trust and links to the local Waste and Recycling Strategy information.

EE Mobile – monthly contract will increase by 41p from April 2025.

The 10th Great British Spring Clean will take place from 21 March - 6 April.

ACTION: MU and BH will organise a litter pick

ACTION: KW to contact NFDC and arrange to borrow equipment

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

KM apologised for not making a meeting sooner.

The recently announced Govt reorganisation, and the creation of a mayoral authority are two separate things. Mayoral system is designed to get more money from Govt in order to make local spending decisions. Where mayors exist, they do seem to get more money. Previous Govt gave very confused signals, but the new Govt have made it clear that everyone will get a mayor, and so HCC decided to go for the mayor now; and follow up with reorganisation (which will see Hampshire change to a unitary authority, replacing the current County/District arrangement) in order to get more money to the local area quickly. HCC therefore had to postpone the May elections.

The Mayor election will be in 2026 and that person will represent to Whitehall, covering such things as large road schemes / infrastructure projects, include the Police and Crime Commission, and the fire service. Anyone can stand, not just a politically aligned individual.

The reorganisation turns Hampshire from a two tier to a unitary authority. An interim solution must be submitted by 21 March to Govt. KM re-emphasised that the numbers for new unitaries are 500K residents, but it is not clear whether that applies to existing unitaries, like Southampton and Portsmouth. KM suspects that many of the existing unitaries will stay as they are. An upper limit has not currently been stated. Hampshire has 1.4M residents so likely won't be able to stay as one authority, but will have to be split. KM's view is not to create another new territory above the three already in existence, better to add Eastleigh to Southampton and Havant to Portsmouth, and beyond that change nothing else. Splitting adult and children social services across the county would be a disaster. Need to show the savings possible not a set of additional costs. Local authorities get control over student placements/catchment areas and again, splitting that from HCC to a wider number of authorities will cause many more issues and expense.

National Park authorities will stay as they are, the mayor will also have some control/say in the spread of housing across the entire area. This is likely to be good for the New Forest. For Hampshire there are areas where there is earmarked land for 1000s of houses and this could help the pressure on the National Park which has a huge number required but very little land to build them on. KM thinks there will be more opportunities for better links with town and parish councils. The rest of the county will likely be parished and towns will also likely structure themselves.

Chairman's signature:

Date:

Some smaller parishes could merge together. Local councils will likely be consulted more on local area matters. The Secretary of State has indicated that any new authority must have clear plans on consulting with local communities.

5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor

BH asked how much will it all cost? KM responded that there won't be money from Govt to do it, it will be about the savings that can be made and the cost of making the changes will have to come from the initial savings. HCC did the sums a while ago and it was felt that there WILL be some significant savings which need to be pumped back into those services that have been suffocated for the last ten years.

BH wondered what would happen with the Integrated Care Board? KM would hope to see the new mayor with a seat at that table. The current, fractured ICB in Hampshire is not working well.

For the budget this year, HCC is taking £50-60M out of reserves. Much of the rest is earmarked but HCC would hope to provide a good level of service until it no longer exists. Eleven councils down to 1-3 will make savings. Another example of how, would be rubbish collection and disposal becoming under one authority.

We will likely see more Cllrs and therefore probably smaller wards. KM hopes that communications with parishes would be more valuable because of the distance between local communities and the new unitary authority.

MH asked about the timescales for the changes? KM said that final proposals for the reorganisation would have to be submitted in September 2025 and by this time next year we will have a better idea of what the future might look like. The Mayoral election will take place in May 2026. There will be some kind of consultation on residents' views of the split of unitaries.

In other news, KM has used his budget for the year now.

HCC confirms that their precept will go up by 4.99% as per Govt limits.

AR asked if KM had anything else to add to the Hurst Spit matter? KM has suggested getting the chair of the Environment Agency to come and look at the spit and the flooding at Brockenhurst. MU had attended a recent meeting where the Environment Agency had presented. They are not abandoning the spit, there has been some misinformation about this.

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

Following on from Cllr Mans' comments, DP noted that every unitary authority is feeling the terrible burden of social care. NFDC currently has a balanced budget, healthy reserves, and is meeting all its service provision. He fears that wider services will decrease due to the volume of social services which will mop up all and every penny once it is all under one roof, as it were.

On other matters, DP thanked members for informing him about the issues surrounding the cycling events; he is acutely aware of matters previously not known about. NFDC have little to no say in such events, and no legal powers to intervene.

Chairman's signature:

Date:

However, the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) has statutory authorities represented on it, and so DP will raise with the District Commander as not sure that the concerns will be being fed back from the SAG. The Community Safety team at NFDC may not be aware; they were able to intervene in the carriage driving event on the Forest and this means some intervention could be possible.

MU updated on his findings. The cycling charter is very woolly and has no enforcement capacity. The events start and finish outside the NFNPA boundary so that the charter does not even technically apply. MU has written to David Orme, NFALC cycle representative and said that a review should go through NFALC and NFDC.

DP had also attended Boldre PC who were unaware of these events and were equally concerned. DP feels it is right to go through NFALC (this is exactly what it is for) as this could join up the various parishes' concerns; NFALC should be encouraged to lead on behalf of the councils. NFALC could write to local MPs to say that there should be structures in place for such events. It is quite alarming to understand more about it. DP said that currently authorities can only encourage organisers to do the right thing but really it does need sanctions when they don't.

MH expressed concerns that MOPs may act in response to cycling events, as has previously been seen and this caused huge safety problems for both the event participants but also the Forest stock and other users.

ACTION: KW to contact NFALC (and copy MU) to ask for the issue of cycling events to be on the next agenda and to recommend that a letter is written to the two MPs by NFALC

At the recent NFDC CIL task and finish group meeting, DP was very supportive of the East Boldre Village Hall application. Announcements have been put back a month, so confirmation of any funding will be in April now.

6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor

MH is there a waste strategy update? DP said that some of his ward will be in phase 1 and others in later phases. Households will be written to and there is a whole page on the website as well as a video! Final plans will be confirmed at end of this month; some properties will not get wheelie bins for logistical reasons, and these will be contacted individually. They can choose to have one by request but otherwise they will carry on as they are with bags. NFDC is trying to keep the number of bins for each household as low as possible, to make it easier for residents. There will be teething issues of course, but hopefully this system will be better in the long run. Assisted collections will rocket as people can manage a little bag but can't necessarily manage a wheelie bin.

ACTION: KW to add a note on the website, members would offer to help fill in the form for assisted collections

ACTION: The road reps could help ID vulnerable residents who need to register

MU had attended the NFDC Community Forum and had shared his thoughts via an email to members. Actions following the Forum include updates to the emergency plan and Mike Upton has agreed that a review is timely.

Chairman's signature:

Date:

There were a few key areas of focus:

Vulnerability – there was a list of vulnerable residents but it is quite out of date. During the pandemic it was hard to obtain details of anyone due to GDPR. In an emergency situation (like the Forum exercise which played a scenario of extreme cold weather and a lengthy power cut) someone needs to be able to pinpoint vulnerable people. It was noted that residents could sign up to the Utilities Priority Register which provided support in the event of a power cut. It was noted that principal councils struggle to get this information and it was therefore unlikely that the parish council would be able to obtain anything useful from them. The best plan would be to consider at a very local level from neighbour intelligence.

Phones – mobile signal in the village is pretty poor. Broadband enables wifi calling but if there is a power cut then no broadband would be available. Digital switchover means all calls are via the internet. The solution is that vulnerable people can ask for battery backups for routers to keep the internet live, for several hours. This does work. Many residents will not know about this and the parish council should circulate advice. A draft document has been circulated to members. This would be publicised via newsletter, website, social media, noticeboards etc. Mike Upton also wanted to use the road reps to identify vulnerable residents in their roads. Personal alarms (like the Appletree CareLine) won't work if the phone is off, or the power is off. Most units do have battery backup but rely on phone connectivity. There is an app for tracking power cuts etc which would be tested and publicised if useful.

MU and MH would offer to support people getting the technology ordered etc.

ACTION: MU to send the draft document to Cllr Poole

7.0 Public session

None.

8.0 To note new information regarding Household waste and recycling Strategy

Already covered in the discussion under 6.0 above.

9.0 Finance

9.1 Members had received the monthly report and bank reconciliation for January (attached)

9.2 To receive the payment schedule for January (attached)

RESOLVED:

1. Monthly accounts for January were reviewed and approved
2. The payment schedule for January was approved

10.0 To review applications:

10.1 25/00039CONS - 4, MATTHEWS LANE, EAST BOLDRE

Prune 3 x Oak trees / Prune 1 x Yew tree / Deadwood 1 x Oak tree

Response submitted: no objections

Chairman's signature:

Date:

10.2 25/00051CONS - SORRENTO, MASSEYS LANE, EAST BOLDRE

Prune 1 x Cypress tree

Prune 1 x Holly tree

Members had no concerns

11.0 To receive reports from external meetings**11.1 Hurst Spit Strategy (Cllr Urwin)**

MU circulated notes from the meeting for information; should not directly affect East Boldre.

11.2 Scarecrow Trail, East Boldre (Cllr Cranton)

BH had shared the minutes from the meeting. What can the PC do to support? Members to read the minutes and see what they might like to do.

11.3 Emergency Planning Updates (Cllr Hawker)

Met on 3 February and agreed to update the plan, now drafted and shared with members. Will hold a meeting for reps and discuss how to identify vulnerable people across the village. Suggested that reps could help with priority services register for over 60s and vulnerable people. Add to the newsletter. MU has created a flow chart for telephone service during a power cut, further revisions to be made. May not be able to rely on mobile service due to mast being off. BH thanked Mike Upton for coordinating everything.

11.4 CPR and Defibrillator training (Cllr Hawker)

Had a course on 28 January with fifteen from the parish in attendance. Two Lymington first responders ran the session, which was really good – it was nice to see younger people attending. Donated £65 to South Central Ambulance charity to say thank you.

11.5 NFALC (Cllr Husband)

Minutes will be circulated. There was a long discussion on devolution and reorg. On 19 March, the NFALC session includes a training session on ‘preparing for a unitary authority’ at Appletree court from 7pm. MH will attend – anyone else is welcome. Our training budget can cover the £10 cost per attendee. The NFALC meeting also discussed waste strategy. There was a presentation by Go New Forest (tourist board for New Forest) and also the CPRE. A local authority membership is just £60 per year and CPRE have a good offering particularly around planning matters.

11.6 Handy Trust Youth Services (Cllrs Morrissey & Cranton)

Locum clerk summarised the meeting which had also been attended by LH. Following a recce of the parish by Handy Trust, they would prepare a proposal for their detached youth work and hoped to attend a future meeting and discuss with members.

12.0 Update on cycling events (Cllr Urwin)

Covered under item 6.0 above.

13.0 To consider additional roads promoting careful driving through the village (Cllr Rostand)

AR had noted villages elsewhere had signs reading “please drive carefully through the village” and “thank you for driving carefully through the village” and felt this would be a good addition to the village.

ACTION: AR to prepare costs/quote and put on a future agenda

Chairman’s signature:

Date:

14.0 Agenda items for next meeting

- Scarecrow Trail and how the Parish Council would support
- Beaulieu PC wrote concerning decarbonisation; they are going to arrange a meeting and invite two Cllrs to attend. MU and MH both interested. BH can also probably attend.
- Parish Meeting – hold at the end of next month’s meeting

15.0 To confirm the next Parish Council meeting – and Parish Meeting - from 7.00pm on 11 March 2025 in East Boldre Village Hall

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Chairman’s signature:

Date:

East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule - February 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Folio</i>	<i>trans</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Payments					
17-Jan-25	E Welch	Salary December	72	BP	£467.00
17-Jan-25	K Walding	Locum support	73	BP	£165.00
17-Jan-25	SLCC	Membership subscription	74	BP	£150.00
21-Jan-25	EE LIMITED	Parish Clerk phone	75	DD	£6.47
21-Jan-25	HSBC	Total charges to 30DEC2024	76	DD	£5.00
23-Jan-25	HMRC	PAYE	77	DD	£308.99
23-Jan-25	ROYAL MAIL FINANCE	PO Box	78	DD	£42.60
31-Jan-25	A R Kitcher	Allotment hedging	79	BP	£360.00
Total payments					£1,505.06
Receipts					
12-Jan-25	HSBC	Interest	68	INT	£32.36
Total receipts					£32.36
Money transferred					
17-Jan-25	HSBC	Internet transfer	66	TFR	£1,200.00
31-Jan-25	HSBC	Internet transfer	67	TFR	£400.00
Bank reconciliation					
Balance as at date					
HSBC Current			31/01/2025		£194.68
HSBC Savings			31/01/2025		£19,558.09
Less unpresented cheques					
Net bank balance as at date					<u>£19,752.77</u>
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows					
Opening balances					£13,573.12
Add receipts					£19,192.19
less payments					- £13,012.54
Closing balance as per the balance sheet					<u>£19,752.77</u>

Chairman's signature:

Date:

Monthly report

	2024-25	24/25		25/26
	Actual	Budget	YTD	Forecast
	£	£	£	£
Council business				
Income	16,340.00	16745.00	16,806.72	16,800.00
Expenditure	14,241.00	15875.00	11,203.96	15,932.12
Surplus (deficit)	2,099.00	870.00	5,602.76	867.88
Projects				
Income			-	
Expenditure	100.00	1000.00	-	
Surplus (deficit)	100.00	-1000.00	-	
Allotments				
Income	1,829.00	1921.00	1,841.73	1850.00
Expenditure	1,648.00	2580.00	1,399.79	2580.00
Surplus (deficit)	181.00	-659.00	441.94	- 730.00
VAT recovered	225.00		543.74	
VAT paid	581.00		408.79	
net	356.00		134.95	
Total surplus (deficit)	1,825.00	-789.00	6,179.65	137.88
Reserve brought forward	11,743.00	13705.88	13,568.00	13,568.00
Reserve carried forward	13,568.00	12916.88	19,747.65	13,705.88
Cash at bank	13,573.00		19,752.77	13,705.88
Adjustments				
Cash book balance	13,573.00		19,752.77	13,705.88
Reserves	13,568.00		19,747.65	13,705.88
Commitment	5.00		5.14	5.14
Total	13,573.00		19,752.79	13,711.02
				£ 13,705.88

Chairman's signature:

Date: