

**East Boldre Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall**  
**on Tuesday 8 April 2025**

Councillors present:

Beverley Hawker (Chair), Mike Husband, Mike Urwin, Ian Moyse, Louise Cranton, Teresa Morrissey

In attendance:

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

BH welcomed everyone and noted the success of the Village Hall bid for CIL funding. Thanks to everyone involved, but especially Gina who has worked so hard to keep it all on track. MH noted that the project has been running since 2017 and this success really helps to give belief that other funding can now be obtained with matched funding. MH noted the support from Cllr Poole too, which was sincerely appreciated.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Received and from AR.

**2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda**

MH declared an interest in 10.1 Glengarry as a neighbour

**3. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2025**

Minutes were approved as a record of the previous meeting.

**3.1 Matters arising**

BH noted that most matters from the previous meeting were in hand or already completed.

AR will bring the sign design and update to the next meeting.

BH noted that thefts from the allotments were reported to the police and that the information will be included in East Boldre & Beyond in due course.

**4. To receive a report from the Locum Clerk. FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

1. LW has returned to work on a reduced time basis, trying to keep weekly input to around 4 hours per week. This meant that most tasks were administrative in nature, focusing agendas, finance (including end of year), responding to emails and starting work on annual allotment renewals, including updating holders' membership of NSALG.
2. The Lengthsman replaced several fenceposts on the road facing sides of the allotments.
3. The Internal Auditor is scheduled to visit on 15 May.
4. Schoolfields Trust have been asked about room availability for Sep, Oct and Nov while the village hall undergoes refurbishment work.
5. The overgrown road hedge on a blind bend towards East End has been reported to HCC, who have confirmed it is the property owner's responsibility, and they have made third parties aware. LW reminds members of public that they should contact HCC directly to report potholes.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025

6. The rotten 'no overnight camping' sign opposite the old PO has been reported to Forestry England. Reply pending.
7. Allotment renewal contracts were due 1 April, LW is running behind with these but working on them as a priority. There are several vacant plots available so please help spread the word!
8. Going forward, the good news is that LW's voice has returned. However there have been a number of setbacks and a hospital appointment is scheduled for 22 April. LW is hoping to have a clearer idea of the way forward after this time. For April she will continue on a reduced hours basis, and proposes that her monthly salary is based on hours worked for the time being. She'd like to thank all Cllrs for their kindness and understanding throughout.

MU noted in relation to no.5 that the house in question is in very poor condition and cllrs discussed that it may not be inhabited.

A MOP noted in regard to no.6 that he has received a reply from FE, and the sign is not to be replaced – they are no longer made in house and instead made by and installed by a contractor. FE are seeking guidance on blocking the entire area now. Cllrs noted that this would have an impact on the entrance to Matthews Lane. The MOP will forward the email from FE who will be back in touch in due course.

#### **5. To receive a report by the County Councillor for East Boldre. FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Cllr Mans encouraged everyone to give comments on the current consultation before it closes on 14<sup>th</sup> April: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/governmentinhampshire/devolution>

Proposals were submitted to the March deadline, and the next major deadline is in the autumn with a decision on the unitary authorities hopefully announced at the end of the year. One authority for the whole county is a possibility (but not necessarily a probability) and another option is a split into two or three unitaries. Most agree that the highest risk for the New Forest would be joining with Southampton City Council.

#### **5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor**

MH asked whether there will be any additional consultation later on? Cllr Mans unclear but thinks there would be. Timing will be quite tight to get organised in time for the elections in May 2026.

**ACTION: The Clerk will add the link to the consultation onto East Boldre & Beyond and the website, to encourage residents to respond**

Currently the increase in National Insurance Contributions for employers is not covered by the increased funds awarded relating to adult social care. The NHS has an exemption but many related services which are not exempt, will really struggle to meet their costs. There will likely be a knock on effect.

It is likely that the devolved budget to HCC Cllrs may cease in this financial year.

#### **6. To receive a report by the District Councillor for East Boldre. FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025

Cllr Poole expressed his delight at the Village Hall funding success and was also pleased that the block from Forestry England was also now resolved.

He noted that NFDC Cllrs have all had an increase in their devolved budgets to £1000 for the new financial year and he welcomes applications from local bodies.

He reminded members about the 28 April when NFDC are hosting a meeting for all Towns and Parishes at Lyndhurst Community Centre to discuss the impact of local government reorganisation.

### **6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor**

MH expressed thanks again for the support for the village hall. DP said it was an excellent application and worthy of its success.

### **7. Presentation from Handy Trust**

Two representatives from The Handy Trust (THT) gave a presentation.

Next year THT would celebrate 25 years of service in the Waterside area; originally started under Hythe & Dibden Parish Council, now a much expanded operation.

THT provide youth clubs, holiday clubs and family fun days, mostly fully funded. They provide mentoring for those facing challenges such as (but not limited to) being out of school, home issues, mental health, job seeking etc. They take referrals from families and other agencies including social services.

THT provide a lot of detached youth work, going to find young people where they are (often with drinks and snacks!) and can address ASB, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual health concerns and generally working with young people to help them make better choices. They work very closely with the local schools, providing sessions and training across a range of those areas.

They have recently launched an alternative education programme through the King's Trust; running for older teens and focused on employability, handling money, job seeking and more; this is really needed particularly after Covid with some young people struggling to engage with the school system.

THT recognise the need for a very tailored service, with no hard and fast rules on what they deliver, they are a very agile organisation which means they can deliver what is needed. They started to work with Sway PC a year ago, providing some support to their Youth Club, and have a vision of providing access to youth services across the forest, and especially to the rural areas, given the lack of transport and provision for young people. Such options could look like fun activities in green spaces, transport to activities in other areas, and casual access for young people where they are.

BH noted a young group in the village that may struggle in the future as there is currently very little in East Boldre for them. The Council would like to consider embarking on something but are unclear how many youngsters might engage or be keen. Offering an informal chance to engage with the young people would be a great start.

**Chairman's signature:**

**Date:** 13 May 2025

THT suggest that some background casual engagement and testing the idea would be free of charge initially; any agreed provision would be offered at a cost of £20/hour to bring service to the area including all expenses. They receive funding from Hythe & Dibden PC and Marchwood PC, along with an agreement with NFDC; the rest of their money is from grant funding and fundraising events.

THT work with young people of any age, up to approx 25 years old. Their youth club is targeted 10-16yo – with an earlier session for 10-12s and later session for 13+. Holiday days are aimed at whole families and include a hot meal for everyone. Members noted that some young people in their early 20s live in the village, long out of school and with no work, who could benefit from help. There was nothing in the village for older teenagers except Young Farmers. There are issues for some young people in the village and further research is needed to identify possible solutions to these problems.

Everyone is welcome to join in with THT, it is not a service just for those in need but for all young people.

### Next steps

- It was agreed that THT should undertake an initial assessment in the village and start to chat informally with young people
- THT would identify some dates for their attendance in the village
- THT and the Council will create and distribute a leaflet to explain the offering to parents
- THT will bring their minibus and engage casually with young people – suggestions include meeting them from the school bus drop off as well as on foot where they hang out
- TM to liaise on the locations where older young people are
- Following this initial assessment, THT would feed back to the Council with their findings and recommendations

If a service of any kind were to be agreed as beneficial, then the Council will look at funding options to support it.

BH thanked THT for their very informative session and felt that this was a real opportunity to provide for the younger demographic in the village.

### 8. Public session

None offered.

### 9. Finance

#### 9.1 To receive monthly report and bank reconciliation for March (circulated)

BH summarised the report, which was now to year end. The YTD column shows expenditure for the 2024-25 year and shows a carry forward of £3850.45. This was larger than forecast, mainly because they didn't spend as much on salary (due to LW absence), on maintenance, training, and the newsletter.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025

This puts the reserves at £17,418.45. Out of that, the Council will earmark £500 for the allotments: preparation of plots, which didn't happen last year but will be completed this year. This confirms a general reserve of £16,918.45.

### **9.2 To review effectiveness of internal control systems and annual governance statement (circulated)**

BH noted the rigorous financial controls in place and members agreed that they were meeting the needs of Transparency Code – a link had been shared to the full Transparency Code for all members to review.

**RESOLVED to confirm compliance with Section 1 of the AGAR, that information required by the Transparency Code has been published on the website**

## **10. To review applications:**

### **10.1 24/00927FULL: Glengarry, MAIN ROAD, EAST BOLDRE, SO42 7WT**

Members noted that the proposed structure will take the same footprint as the current building whose structure is unsound and therefore needs replacing. The purpose is to house livestock and feed to support the residents' commoning activities. Cladding will blend the building look and similar to the existing dwelling.

**RECOMMENDATION: 1. We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers**

The Council recommends the addition of a condition to exclude any future development as habitable accommodation

### **10.2 25/00344CONS: Windrush, NORLEY WOOD ROAD, EAST END, SO41 5SW**

Members have no concerns about this tree work.

## **11. Governance**

### **11.1 Review Councillor Code of Conduct – no changes proposed**

**RESOLVED to re-adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct with no changes**

### **11.2 Review grant awarding policy – no changes proposed**

**RESOLVED to re-adopt the grant awarding policy with no changes**

## **12. To receive reports from external meetings**

### **12.1 Report on allotment risk management visit**

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025

BH had attended an excellent meeting with the Association the previous Sunday, along with a coffee morning with plot holders.

The site has improved greatly with the installation of new internal rabbit proof fencing and posts where needed, clearing of rubbish, and creating a friendly atmosphere for plotters as a community. There was a good partnership between the Association and Council.

There are currently 17 plots vacant, which will impact on funds – and requires a concerted effort to promote and encourage new plot holders. A programme to advertise allotments is planned.

The risk assessment (needed annually) has been completed and will be shared by the Clerk once confirmed.

There had been a huge improvement in the hedge trimming; the new contractor has done a great job. Next time they will ask that they lower the height a bit more on the front, so that it is more visible - to reduce risk of further thefts. Free hedging from HCC will be applied for and planted to fill gaps along the edge by the pub for security. The Association had a policy to clear glass and metal from the site and a lot had been done. The rat situation has improved. Thanks to the Committee and plot holders for all their work.

MH requested plot holders should be reminded to close the gate to the village hall car park when they leave the car park. TM commented on the number of vehicles parking on the road / verges from the turf cutters to the gate of the allotments. She expressed concern regarding health and safety.

### **12.2 Decarbonisation initiative from Beaulieu PC**

MH attended a presentation from Solent Cluster. Very interesting discussions giving measurements of carbon in the local Solent industries; Fawley are a major contributor. This felt like it could be a softening up of the locals for a future proposal.

### **12.3 Scarecrow Trail – parish council involvement**

LC gave a quick summary of this cross-community event to show case the village. Initiated by the School Fields Trust but for all the groups to get involved. A great initiative and hopefully a successful event with good fundraising opportunities.

The Council are keen to produce a scarecrow. Following previous discussion of the possibility of sponsorship or other support that the PC could offer, the planning group have asked for £100 towards catering costs from the PC.

**RESOLVED to award £100 sponsorship towards the catering of the Scarecrow fun event**

### **12.4 Speedwatch update**

During March the team ran four sessions, recording 400 cars of which 6 were over the speed limit. The majority of those were at East End; many seem to consider it is 40mph there. There will be another round of sessions next week. BH noted thanks to all the volunteers.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025

**13. Agenda items for next meeting**

IM asked about the plans for the repair of the bench in the bus shelter. BH confirmed that once the monies available from the Lengthsman fund is confirmed for 25/26, the Council can decide on a prioritised list of jobs. It was noted that the shelter itself needs some attention.

Re cycling events, we are waiting for the event to happen now and see how it goes. The next event is 18/19 April.

**14. To confirm next Parish Council meeting and Annual Meeting of the PC as 7.00pm on 13 May 2025 in East Boldre Village Hall.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025

## East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule - March 2025

<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Folio</i>	<i>trans</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>Payments</b>					
24-Feb-25	ROYAL MAIL FINANCE	PO Box	86	DD	£42.60
03-Mar-25	E Welch Clerk	Salary February	87	BP	£411.60
11-Mar-25	Katie Walding Locum	Locum support	88	BP	£271.00
14-Mar-25	ICO	Data protection	89	DD	£47.00
21-Mar-25	EE LIMITED	Parish Clerk phone	90	DD	£6.47
21-Mar-25	HSBC	TOTAL CHARGES TO 27FEB2025	91	DR	£5.00
24-Mar-25	GOCARDLESS	Office 365	92	DD	£24.72
24-Mar-25	Katie Walding Locum	Locum support	93	BP	£68.00
24-Mar-25	EBAA	Allotment maintenance	94	BP	£125.00
27-Mar-25	ROYAL MAIL FINANCE	PO Box	95	DD	£42.60
31-Mar-25	E Welch Salary	Salary March	96	BP	£320.85
31-Mar-25	E Welch Clerk	Clerk expenses	97	BP	£112.20
31-Mar-25	HMRC	PAYE/NIC	98	OBP	£124.80
<b>Total payments</b>					<b>£1,601.84</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
12-Mar-25	HSBC	Interest	74	INT	£24.03
<b>Total receipts</b>					<b>£24.03</b>
<b>Money transferred</b>					
03-Mar-25	HSBC	Internet transfer	72	TFR	£420.00
06-Mar-25	HSBC	Internet transfer	73	TFR	£500.00
24-Mar-25	HSBC	Internet transfer	75	TFR	£1,000.00
<b>Bank reconciliation</b>					
<b>Balance as at date</b>					
HSBC Current		31/03/2025			£432.07
HSBC Savings		31/03/2025			£16,991.50
Less unrepresented cheques					
<b>Net bank balance as at date</b>					<b>£17,423.57</b>
<b>The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows</b>					
Opening balances					<b>£13,573.12</b>
Add receipts					<b>£19,245.60</b>
less payments					<b>-£15,395.15</b>
<b>Closing balance as per the balance sheet</b>					<b>£17,423.57</b>

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025

## Monthly report 2024-25

	2023-24	24/25			25/26
	Actual	Budget	YTD	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Council business</b>					
Income	16,340.00	16745.00	16,860.13	16,760.00	£ 17,750.00
Expenditure	14,241.00	15875.00	12,739.13	15,007.74	£ 16,340.00
Surplus (deficit)	2,099.00	870.00	4,121.00	1,752.26	£ 1,410.00
<b>Projects</b>					
Income			-		
Expenditure	100.00	1000.00	-	1,000.00	
Surplus (deficit)	100.00	-1000.00	-	-1000.00	
<b>Allotments</b>					
Income	1,829.00	1921.00	1,841.73	1850.00	£ 2,550.00
Expenditure	1,648.00	2580.00	2,224.79	2635.82	£ 2,550.00
Surplus (deficit)	181.00	-659.00	- 383.06	- 785.82	£ -
<b>VAT recovered</b>	225.00		543.74		
<b>VAT paid</b>	581.00		431.23		
<b>net</b>	356.00		112.51		
<b>Total surplus (deficit)</b>	1,825.00	-789.00	3,850.45	- 33.56	1,410.00
<b>Reserve brought forward</b>	11,743.00	13534.44	13,568.00	13,568.00	£ 13,705.88
<b>Reserve carried forward</b>	13,568.00	12745.44	17,418.45	13,534.44	
<b>Cash at bank</b>	13,573.00		17,423.57	15,539.58	
<b>Adjustments</b>					
<b>Cash book balance</b>	13,573.00		17,423.57	15,539.58	
<b>Reserves</b>	13,568.00		17,418.45	13,534.44	£ 13,705.88
<b>Commitment</b>	5.00		5.14	5.14	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,573.00</b>		<b>17,423.59</b>	<b>13,539.58</b>	<b>£ 13,705.88</b>
<b>Council business Income</b>					
precept	16,000.00	16500.00	16,500.00	16,500.00	£ 17,500.00
bank interest	340.00	245.00	360.13	260.00	£ 250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,340.00</b>	16745.00	<b>16,860.13</b>	<b>16,760.00</b>	<b>£ 17,750.00</b>
<b>Council business expenditure</b>					
salary	9,227.00	9300.00	8,557.23	9700.00	£ 9,400.00
stationery/post/phone	623.00	630.00	534.76	630.00	£ 650.00
travel	216.00	400.00	163.50	200.00	£ 300.00
office	312.00	400.00	208.00	312.00	£ 350.00
equipment	737.00	200.00	225.62	225.62	£ 200.00

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025

training	125.00	300.00	-	150.00	£ 300.00
newsletter/leaflets	50.00	300.00	-		£ 300.00
hall hire	300.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	£ 330.00
audit	190.00	200.00	190.00	190.00	£ 200.00
insurance	481.00	500.00	490.12	490.12	£ 500.00
defibrillators	396.00	440.00	405.00	405.00	£ 435.00
Speedwatch			-		
football pitch	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	£ 225.00
subscriptions	1,247.00	1650.00	1,409.90	1650.00	£ 1,650.00
election expenses	75.00		-		
maintenance	37.00	1000.00	-	500.00	£ 1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,241.00</b>	<b>15875.00</b>	<b>12,739.13</b>	<b>15007.74</b>	<b>£ 16,340.00</b>
<b>Projects income</b>					
grants					
donations					
<b>Total</b>			-		
<b>Projects expenditure</b>					
EBOH other			-		
grants	100.00	1000.00	-	1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
defibrillators			-		
notice boards					
public transport			-		
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	
<b>Allotments income</b>	1,829.00	1921.00	1,841.73	1,850.00	£ 2,550.00
<b>Allotments expenditure</b>					
administration		700.00	700.00	700.00	£ 700.00
rent refund	41.00		-		
rent,insurance	669.00	600.00	731.81	731.81	£ 600.00
water	194.00	280.00	204.01	204.01	£ 250.00
hedging	500.00	600.00	300.00	300.00	£ 400.00
fencing			-	0.00	
maintenance	244.00	400.00	288.97	700.00	£ 600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,648.00</b>	<b>2580.00</b>	<b>2,224.79</b>	<b>2,635.82</b>	<b>£ 2,550.00</b>

Chairman's signature:

Date: 13 May 2025