

**East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall
on Tuesday 12 November 2024**

Councillors present:

Beverley Hawker (Chair), Mike Husband, Anna Rostand, Mike Urwin, Louise Cranton

In attendance:

2 members of public, District Cllr Poole, Katie Walding (Locum Parish Clerk)

BH welcomed everyone including LC who was attending her first meeting, and Katie Walding the locum clerk standing in for Liz Welch.

1.0 To accept apologies for absence

Cllrs Ian Moyse and Teresa Morrissey.

2.0 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

MH noted an interest in item 10.1 as the Chair of the Village Hall Trustees.

3.0 To confirm minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2024.

3.1 Matters arising

BH noted under item 4 – LW had attended the NF Action Against Hardship meeting and had suggested to members that they might want to hold an event on a Saturday, inviting representatives to advise/support on sources of funding, food banks etc.

Members agreed that this would be progressed when LW is back at work.

MU noted under item 7 – he and LW had finalised the submission to the LCWIP Consultation (Appendix 1) in response to the consultation.

BH noted under item 12.2 that LW had contacted Do The Numbers to ask for a quote but nothing had been received as yet.

4.0 To receive Clerk's report

KW has provided cover since mid-October and thanked members for their patience as she settled into their usual practices. LC's legal paperwork had been processed, and a new email address was now in place.

KW noted various meeting invitations to members:

NFDC Community Forum – 4 December, Planning for an Adverse Incident in your Community
Venue Lyndhurst Community Hall, Lyndhurst. MU and AR would attend.

Hampshire ALC second County Forum – 28th November 10-12pm
Holiday Inn, Winchester

NFDC Parking Consultation Briefing, Monday 18th November from 7pm
To be held virtually, no RSVP necessary

SE Quadrant Meeting, 27th November 7-9pm, Exbury Social Club

Agenda items to be submitted by 18th November through the locum clerk

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14/1/2025

Consultations:

NFDC Parking Consultation opened Tuesday 29 October. This consultation is a crucial opportunity for residents, businesses, and visitors to have their say on the future of parking in the New Forest. Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate at <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/ParkingConsultation>

Hampshire County Council Walking and Cycling survey

This is aimed at identifying issues with accessibility and connectivity for walking and cycling. This is part of Hampshire County Council's commitment to improving accessibility and encouraging more people to walk and cycle for short journeys.

Everyone is encouraged to respond before 22nd December.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/barriers-walking-cycling>

New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park supply and demand assessment for both indoor and outdoor sports facilities locally

For completion prior to 29th November

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/New Forest Town and Parish Council Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/New_Forest_Town_and_Parish_Council_Survey)

Scottish & Southern Electricity had shared their toolkit for the priority register service which enabled residents to receive additional support in the event of a power outage (planned or unexpected). This could be something added to the planned event in 2025.

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

Cllr Mans was unable to attend.

5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor

None.

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

Cllr Poole gave more information regarding the forthcoming NFDC Community Forum and made clear that an emergency shouldn't be considered to be only in regard to flooding. The workshop will use a real case study from Test Valley. He noted that East Boldre has an excellent emergency plan in place already, but this would also be a good chance to network with other parishes.

6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor

MH asked about refuse collection service issues – Cllr Poole said that discussions were ongoing. MH – with regard to the roll out of new bins, how will this be affected by the new sorting point for recycling? Cllr Poole confirmed that NFDC is continuing with the roll out as planned, although somewhat delayed from the initial timetable. There will be a major communications campaign to ensure people know what to do and when.

7.0 To receive an update on progress towards the village hall refurbishment

A representative of the Village Hall trustees attended the meeting and gave an update. Quotes had now been received from four builders ranging from £365K to £570K. Costs have gone up since last quotes obtained. The most expensive has been rejected.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14/1/2025

The expected shortlist is for the two mid-range quotes, with a build cost expected of around £450k but hopefully not more. Stage 1 proposal has been submitted with National Lottery Community Fund and they are happy to proceed. An additional proposal has been submitted to the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund, but they will likely take a long time to respond. The NL Community Fund criteria is being changed next spring and they will be prioritising other projects than village halls, which might be impactful on any application. A grant from Hampshire County Council of £25k has been confirmed. St Barbe's and NF Heritage Centre are also keen to work with the project, considering such events as pop-up exhibitions and workshops, café etc. A letter of support from Sir Julian Lewis has been welcomed. The Trustees are now working on a bid for a CIL grant.

BH congratulated the Trustees on getting this far with the grants and the work done.

AR asked whether Tuakana were one of the quotes? It was confirmed that they were included and had quoted.

8.0 Public session

No comments from residents.

9.0 Finance

9.1 To review monthly accounts for October and to note the bank reconciliation (Appendix 2)

Members received the accounts and bank reconciliation.

9.2 To agree the draft budget for 2025-26

BH summarised the forecast, noting that whilst the current year's precept was increased, project expenditure loss and a loss on the allotments was projecting a year-end deficit of £1048. As agreed, the clerk's time costs had been adjusted. The awarded pay increase for 2024 was now included, plus expected Statutory Sick Pay with 20 weeks of a locum clerk at 5hrs/week. This resulting forecast would put reserves down to £12,718.

The proposed Budget prediction shows a deficit £1484 reducing reserves to £11,234 which was closer to the minimum recommended level of reserves. There was no expectation that the locum clerk costs would continue into the new financial year. The Govt increase to NICs and reduction in the threshold impacts would create additional costs of £759 for the year; a 5% pay award had been budgeted.

Whilst it was noted that Allotments are going well, they do still present a financial risk, as plot vacancies are unknown. It was felt that it should be possible to cover any deficit from reserves.

9.3 To agree the 2025-26 Precept request

The recommendation from the budget was to increase the precept by £800 to cover the unexpected rise in NICs. MH proposed an increase of £1000 as it was felt this provided some support to the level of reserves predicted.

RESOLVED:

1. The payment schedule and bank reconciliation for October were approved (Appendix 2)
2. The draft budget was approved (Appendix 3)
3. To increase the precept by £1000 to cover increases in NICs and the anticipated national pay increase.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14/1/2025

10.0 To review planning applications

10.1 24/01108FULL - East Boldre Village Hall, Main Road, East Boldre

This Application was as a result of an energy audit and trying to return the aesthetic to more inkeeping with the original building. MU noted a report from the conservation officer which was broadly in favour.

24/01108 FULL	East Boldre Village Hall, Main Road, East Boldre, Brockenhurst SO42 7WD	Replacement windows and doors	3. We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below. The proposals would improve the aesthetic of the building and presented no issues with the Conservation Officer
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10.2 24/01004FULL: O/S, Harveys Farmhouse, Main Road, East Boldre

The Applicant gave some background information and the reasons for amendments, as a result of feedback from the design officer.

MU gave a brief summary of the application; noting it is within the 30% restriction, although still large and probably not subservient to the main dwelling. Slightly further away from the southern boundary. Tree works had been carried out earlier in the year and vegetation grubbed out. Would recommend a condition to replant along that boundary. Potential issue with light pollution, where to the south there are mature trees that are known roosting sites for bats and birds. Two neighbour comments have been unable to upload to the portal; one in favour, one opposing the extension on several grounds. The building was much more exposed as a result of the removal of the boundary vegetation, and impact on bats and owls should be considered. Could consider special glass to reduce glare and spill.

The Applicant confirmed that a bat survey has been completed and includes several recommendations which will be carried out, including bat boxes on the Beaulieu Rails side. They are also very keen to reinstate the boundary vegetation and this has been agreed with neighbours.

Members were not opposed in principle to the extension and changes proposed, but have some concerns due to the size, impact on amenity, and light pollution. They acknowledged the quality and style of the design. They noted that the removal of the conservatory goes some way to mitigating the glazing on the new extension. A brief discussion confirmed that additional parking was now included within the site which would reduce any outside parking from construction vehicles.

24/01004 FULL	Harveys Farmhouse, Main Road, East Boldre	2no. single storey extensions; demolition of conservatory	1. We recommend APPROVAL, for the reasons listed below, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers. Due to its size, this development will have a significant impact on neighbours and causes concern about
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Chairman's signature:

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			<p>increased light pollution and impact on flora and fauna.</p> <p>It was recommended that the applicant consider reducing the height of the south facing glazed windows and be conditioned to include appropriate mitigations to light pollution (either by the type of glazing or blinds).</p> <p>If granted, EBPC would request a condition be included to replant the southern boundary.</p> <p>External ancillary buildings should also be limited from future use as habitable accommodation.</p>
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10.3 24/01205FULL - Culzean, HEATH LANE, EAST BOLDRE

24/01205 FULL	Culzean, HEATH LANE, EAST BOLDRE, BROCKENHU RST, SO42 7WF	Single storey rear extension; demolition of porch & existing extension	3. We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below. This application presents no material concerns.
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10.4 24/01272CONS - OLD OAKS, WITHERS LANE, EAST BOLDRE

No issues.

10.5 24/01275TPO - THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE, MAIN ROAD, EAST BOLDRE

No issues.

11.0 To consider a response to the Govt consultation on remote meetings and proxy votes for town and parish councils

Members discussed the merits and concerns of the proposals within the consultation and agreed to form a working party to prepare a formal response. BH, AH, MH would convene and then circulate a proposed response which could be submitted by the locum clerk prior to the closing date of 19th December.

12.0 To receive reports from external meetings

Speed Watch ran sessions at several locations in October and a number of speeding vehicles were reported from each.

13.0 Agenda items for next meeting

None at this time.

14.0 Date of next meeting

The next parish council meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 14 January 2025 at East Boldre Village Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14/1/2025

Appendix 1**East Boldre Parish Council response to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
October 2024**

East Boldre Parish Council welcomes the ambition for investment set out in the LCWIP and considers it to be long overdue. The Parish Council also welcomes the partnership approach, involving key stakeholders from across the New Forest. Noting that HCC have a statutory requirement to have a local transport plan, and the parish council hopes that this will embrace measures to help reduce carbon emissions. The New Forest is among the highest areas of rural traffic pollution in England, in part due to the lack of alternatives to car transport.

East Boldre is a linear village that stretches over 3 miles. The village itself is some 3 miles from the nearest town. While fortunate to have a community shop, post office and pub, it is a long walk for many residents. There are just six buses a week that pass through the village, to and from Lymington. Improved public transport is not mentioned in the report but would be a very significant benefit and contributor to increased walking and cycling.

The plan states that only c.3% of people in Hampshire make trips by bike, compared with 28.4% in the Netherlands, a country well known for its advanced cycling network. In the parish council's view, much more could be done to create safe cycle routes that will in turn encourage more people to cycle and make the roads safer for all users.

Part of route 200, specifically 200.6 which follows the B3054 from Lymington to Hatchet Pond, passes on the parish council's boundary. The road is well known for accidents and measures in the plan should specifically target this section of 200. By way of illustration, Verderers report that in 2023, the worst road for animal accidents was the B3054. Over the entire year, around a quarter (22) of all accidents involving animals and half (14) of the ponies killed occurred on this road.

In the parish council's view, safer cycle routes that connect with rail stations, such as route 200, could help to reduce car traffic in the longer term.

Further, e-bikes are becoming increasingly popular and could be a game changer for those who seek employment but are impeded by the increasing lack of public transport. The recent study from the University of Southampton, 'Challenges to living well on a low income in the New Forest' found that a challenge to finding employment was the ability to travel to work; 65.8% of survey respondents cited cost of travel as a barrier to work. This reinforces the comments above relating to an integrated public transport/walking/cycling approach.

The parish council hopes that the LCWIP will by default help to increase respect among all road users, through sympathetic signage and more. Over recent years several large-scale, weekend cycling events have been organised in the New Forest, and resentment among car users has manifested itself through road rage incidents and even nails on roads. Signage such as painted cycles on roads could be a starting point, as would 30mph speed limits on the primary utility networks.

Councillors expressed concern relating to the unrealistic nature of many of the proposals for cycling. Suggestions that main roads between conurbations such as Lymington, Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst might become primary cycling routes are either unrealistic or would cost so much to implement as to be completely impractical. A clearer focus on realistic deliveries would be much more likely to attract wider support.

Additionally, Councillors expressed concern at the complete lack of financial information in the report. Noting that this is a central government initiative, we presume that central government will provide funds. If this is not the case, and funding is expected to come from regional and/or local sources, then the pushback from funding bodies already under severe pressure and also from residents seeing further reductions in services will be significant. If the initiatives are to succeed, then we consider that central funding is a fundamental requirement.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14/1/2025

Appendix 2
Payment schedule

East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule - October 2024

<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Folio</i>	<i>trans</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Payments					
17-Oct-24	ROYAL MAIL FINANCE	PO Box	47	DD	£42.60
21-Oct-24	EE LIMITED	Parish Cl phone	48	DD	£6.47
22-Oct-24	HSBC	TOTAL CHARGES TO 29SEP2024	49	DR	£5.00
22-Oct-24	GOCARDLESS	Office 365	50	DD	12.36
24-Oct-24	HMRC	PAYE	51	DD	£416.82
Total payments					£483.25
Receipts					
25-Oct-24	Name withheld	Allot rent	58	CR	£37.95
Total receipts					£37.95
Money transferred					
Bank reconciliation					
Balance as at date					
HSBC Current					£382.54
HSBC Savings					£23,824.47
Less unrepresented cheques					
Net bank balance as at date					£24,207.01
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows					
Opening balances					£13,573.12
Add receipts					£19,058.57
less payments					-£8,424.68
Closing balance as per the balance sheet					£24,207.01

Chairman's signature:

Date: 14/1/2025

Appendix 3

BUDGET 2025-26			
	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	Actual	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Council business			
Income	16,340.00	16,745.00	16850.00
Expenditure	14,241.00	16,153.00	16675.00
Expenditure as % of precept	83.80		
Surplus (deficit)	2,099.00	592.00	175.00
Projects			
Income			
Expenditure	100.00	1,000.00	1000.00
Surplus (deficit)	- 100.00	- 1,000.00	-1000.00
Allotments			
Income	1,829.00	1820.00	1921.00
Expenditure	1,648.00	2460.50	2580.00
Surplus (deficit)	181.00	- 640.50	-659.00
VAT	- 356.00		
Total surplus (deficit)	2,024.00	- 1,048.50	-1484.00
Reserve brought forward	11,743.22	13,767.22	12718.72
Reserve carried forward	13,767.22	12,718.72	11234.72
Council business Income			
precept	16,000.00	16,500.00	16500.00
bank interest	340.00	245.00	350.00
Total	16,340.00	16,745.00	16850.00
Council business expenditure			
salary	9,227.00	10466.00	10800.00
allotment allocation		-700.00	-700.00
	9,227.00	9766.00	10100.00
stationery/post/phone	623.00	600.00	630.00
travel	216.00	400.00	400.00
office	312.00	312.00	400.00
equipment	737.00	200.00	200.00
training	125.00	300.00	300.00
newsletter [& publications]	50.00	450.00	300.00
hall hire	300.00	300.00	330.00
audit	190.00	200.00	200.00
insurance	481.00	500.00	500.00
defibrillators	396.00	400.00	440.00
Speedwatch			0.00
football pitch	225.00	225.00	225.00
subscriptions	1,247.00	1500.00	1650.00
election expenses	75.00	0.00	0.00
maintenance	37.00	1000.00	1000.00
Total	14,241.00	16153.00	16675.00
Projects income			
Total			
Projects expenditure			
EBOH salary			
EBOH other			
grants	100.00	1,000.00	1000.00
defibrillators			
notice boards			0.00
Total	100.00	1,000.00	1000.00
Allotments income			
Total	1,829.00	1,820.00	1921.00
Allotments expenditure			
rent refund	41.00	40.50	
Rent,insurance	669.00	570.00	600.00
water	194.00	150.00	280.00
hedging	500.00	600.00	600.00
fencing		200.00	0.00
maintenance	244.00	200.00	400.00
administration (salary)		700.00	700.00
Total	1,648.00	2,460.50	2580.00

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