

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

Councillors present:

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

In attendance:

District Cllr Poole, Sue James (Parish Clerk) One member of the Public.

BH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.0 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Moyse, Cllr Cranton, Cllr Mans.

2.0 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

MH declared an interest in item 7 Village Hall.

3.0 To confirm minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January.

4.0 To receive Clerk's report**4.1 Allotments**

1. All plot holders with emails have been contacted regarding renewing next year. All but 9 have responded.
Current situation: 12 vacant plots, 3 vacating plots, 1 plot is being transferred.
Lymington Town Council have kindly offered to contact those on their waiting list with details of EB vacant plots. *SJ to post advertisements to website, Facebook, East Boldre and Beyond and send posters to AR to place in village shop and garden center.*
2. Water charges for last year were £446 compared to an average of £230 over the previous 3 years. This is due to a combination of the hot dry summer, and the unprecedented price rises by the water companies. Another rise is due April 26. Assuming similar charges for the coming year, the cost per square meter for water would need to rise to 4p (this doesn't take into account the increase in April). Without an increase, the extra cost will need to come from the overall allotment budget, which will reduce the funds available for maintenance. Cllrs were asked to agree an increase in the water charge to 4p per square meter. **Cllrs Agreed.**
3. Rent for partial years and notice. Following consultation with Sway Parish Council, it was proposed to implement a similar policy regarding partial year tenancies.
12 month to 6-month tenancy – Full years charge
Less than 6 months – 6 months charge
Tenancies of less than 2 months to be charged at councils' discretion.
The notice period will be simplified. Minimum 1 month's notice. Plot must be returned in good order with rubbish and equipment/structures removed. There will be no refund of rent paid. **Cllrs Agreed.**

Chairman's signature:

Date:

4. Lease Renewal. Forestry England have informed the PC that the lease for the allotments is due for renewal on 1st April. The land Agent had requested a meeting. SJ has been trying to arrange an urgent meeting, as renewal contracts are due to be sent out soon. The PC have been informed that discussions are taking place at FE regarding policies, and we will be contacted when these have concluded.

4.2 Hatchet Pond

Hatchett Pond. After several calls SJ has been unable to obtain any information on the work being carried out at the site.

4.3 Emails

Email Adresses. X-Net have been contacted and have asked that the Cllrs experiencing problems either email Nathan or call the helpline.

4.4 Lengthsman

The Lengthsman has confirmed that weather permitting the work will be completed by the end of the financial year.

4.5 Planning Notices.

The feedback from NFNPA is that their policy is not to notify Parish Councils of the following applications as input is not required:

NMAs – Nonmaterial amendments

LDCPs – Lawful development certificate proposals

SCP – Screening opinions, i.e. whether a proposed development requires a full environmental impact assessment, or Scrutiny, a summary report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, i.e. local plans, affordable development, car park charges.

SCP – Systematic Conservation Policy, broad, high level environmental policy, SSSIs.

Prior Notification/Approval Applications.

The planning officer was unaware of the reasons for the policy. The PC can request further information. *SJ to contact NFNPA planning to express the Cllrs concerns*

regarding the amount of development taking place in the parish without any notification and the reasoning behind the notification policy.

4.6 Defibrillators

Agreement to replace pads and batteries on defibs in phone boxes at EB and East End has been renewed. The Defib opposite the village shop can no longer be covered by the agreement due to age, but any replacement batteries or pads can still be ordered. Monitoring of the equipment is completed weekly by volunteers and co ordinated by M Upton, chairman of the East Boldre emergency planning committee.

4.7 Precept

The request for the £500 increase in the precept next year has been sent to NFDC.

Chairman's signature:

Date:

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

Cllr Mans was unable to attend the meeting

5.1 To receive questions on the report by the County Councillor

The Cllrs were concerned at the number of dangerous potholes, not just in the Parish but across the whole area. Conditions have deteriorated rapidly due to the weather and heavier traffic caused by diversions. What plans do the County Council have to rectify the situation? *SJ to write to Cllr Mans expressing Cllrs concerns and asking for feedback.*

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

Cllr Poole had been made aware of the road closure at Hatchett Pond. Lymington Town Council had been informed by FE. Cllr Poole notified Boldre Council but hadn't been aware that EB PC hadn't been informed.

A remittance advice for the £250 grant has been sent. The funds have now arrived.

Cllr Poole delivered an update from Julian Lewis MP regarding car park charges. He was disappointed in how the meeting with The New Forest Association and the Dog Owners Association had gone. He was under the impression that it was a public meeting, not one being run by FE. Car park charges have been considered for several years. However, the current policy was proposed following a visit to the Forest by the Minister for Rural Affairs who was surprised there were no charges for parking in the forest. Julian Lewis felt he lacked support to continue fighting the implementation of the charges. He has since received letters of support from residents of many of the Forest villages. Cllr Poole asked if the Cllrs wished Julian Lewis to continue with his fight. **Cllrs were in full support.**

Cllr Poole expects to know the outcome of the Local Government Reorganisation in the next couple of months.

6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor

None.

7.0 Public Session

No matters raised.

8.0 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications or decisions to review.

One Tree Preservation Order

26/00108CONS Buona Vista, East Boldre SO42 7WT, Fell, 5x Leylandii trees, 4 x Thorn Trees, 1 x Bay Tree, 1 x Dead Silver Birch and 1 x ornamental shrub (exempt).

There were no objections.

NFNPA Planning Response.

Much of the proposed changes to the Planning Framework is not of huge significance albeit that there are areas which will have a need for proper local planning safeguards. The NFNPA Planning Department's proposed response is agreement in some areas and objection, mostly wording, in other areas with some concerns expressed. EBPC supports the efforts of the

Chairman's signature:

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NFNPA to mitigate the potentially undesirable effects of some of the proposed Planning Framework changes.

Cllr Poole added that although EBPC falls under the NFNPA local plan, the NFDC local plan does affect parishes within the NFNPA. NFDC has seen a 100% increase in the number of houses it is required to build. There is a shortage of sites for new developments, which will see many sited around the boundaries to the National Park. This will have a huge effect on the availability of back up grazing for the commoners and the infrastructure within the park.

9.0 Finance

9.1 Members reviewed monthly accounts for January and noted bank reconciliations **Resolved**

10.0 To receive reports from external meetings

10.1 Meeting of the New Forest Association and Dog Owner's Association

BH attended along with Julian Lweis MP. Richard Burke from FE ran the meeting, reiterating FE's plan to implement car park charges across the forest. In addition to the 10 new rangers, FE will now be employing 2 managers and an administration assistant to operate the new policy. They will also install dragons' teeth to prevent unauthorised parking. RB was asked to distribute the business case for the plan. He refused citing commercial confidentiality grounds. He was reminded that this didn't apply as FE are a public body.

10.2 Quadrant meeting

MU attended Quadrant meeting. All PCs present were against car park charges. Richard Burke (RB) spoke for FE and was ill-prepared. Despite being pressured he refused to reveal the business plan, citing "commercial confidentiality". RB was clear that the scheme was a revenue raiser.

RB claimed to have cooperated with the National Trust despite there being no NT properties in the Forest.

Despite assurances that the presentation would be circulated to Parish Clerks by 10th February, this has yet to happen. As detailed in the above meeting there will be 3 extra members of staff. The 10 Rangers will visit 129 carparks, scanning number plates on arrival and leaving, cleaning signs and talking to the public. Payment will be on trust.

The scheme goes live on 20th of April with card payment at 16 sites and RinGo at all sites. There is no cash payment option. A fee paid at one site will remain valid at other New Forest sites for the duration of that ticket.

FE membership at £96 per year (£8 per month) gives free parking in all FE carparks across England.

RB will be distributing a complete and comprehensive document containing all the details.

The agreement of those present was that FE's communication with the parishes has been woefully inadequate.

10.3 Village hall refurbishment project

All asbestos from the back wall has now been removed. The building must remain empty for 10 days to clear any residual dust etc.

Details are still to be confirmed with the builder. This is now urgent as the grant needs to be applied for.

Chairman's signature:

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MH requested volunteers to help with painting once the building work has finished.
School buses are currently unable to pull into the village hall car park due to the building works

11.0 Agenda items for next meeting

1. MH – Village Hall Progress
2. BH – The Handy Trust potential for detached youth work provision following meeting
3. Meeting to commence with a presentation on 'The Waterside outreach mini bus service' by Yvonne Sayer.

12.0 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be 7pm on Tuesday 10th March 2026, followed by the Annual Parish meeting from 8:30 to 9pm. It will take place at the School Fields Trust Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: