

EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Online on Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7pm

Present:

Cllr K Holmes Chairman

Cllr B Hawker Vice Chair

Cllr M Husband

Cllr R Gabzdyl

Cllr D Drodge

Cllr I Moyse

In attendance – Mrs Nicola Curzon, Parish Clerk, Cllr Mans County Councillor, Cllr Harris District Councillor, and 3 members of the public

1.0. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Clark

2.0. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda.

None

3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2020.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting. They will be signed by the Chairman when the Parish Council is able to resume public meetings.

3.1. Matters arising from the minutes.

All matters arising will be covered in agenda items.

4.0. To receive the clerk's report. For information only

New Government guidelines to website accessibility will come into force in September this year. The clerk made amendments to the website last year, increasing font sizes where possible. The parish council looked at making various changes to the site last year. Cllr Holmes has requested that all councillors look through the guidelines and make recommendations on accessibility improvements to the site which can be fed back to E Mango. Cllr Gabzdyl kindly looked carefully through the website and requested various updates and the clerk has made these amendments.

Resolved: Cllr Holmes will check that the website contrast meets the standards required. The clerk will then create an accessibility statement.

Action KH, NC

5.0. To receive a report from the County Councillor. For information only

- Cllr Mans acknowledged the difficulties faced by everyone during the Covid 19 crisis. He praised the government for the funding which has been made available to the county council but said that HCC finances are still £10,000 000 adrift.
- He expressed his disappointment that the return to school for Hampshire pupils has been so restricted. This has caused concerns for vulnerable children.
- Funding to provide PPE equipment for care homes in Hampshire was handed out by the county council before they received government aid. This ensured that they had protection as quickly as possible.
- Cllr Mans praised the community for their co-operation in working together with local government bodies. This ensured that help was available on the ground immediately for those who needed it.
- The government has now created a "Local Outbreak Engagement Board", for which Cllr Mans has attended an initial meeting. The board will ensure that local outbreaks can be controlled efficiently, and areas can be locked down locally if necessary.
- We are moving to a "new normal" phase of the covid 19 crisis, where online meetings and remote working will be common.

5.1. To receive questions on the report from the County Councillor

Cllr Husband asked why HCC is so short of funds when they have a fixed income. Cllr Mans explained that HCC has lost income through reduced business rates and council tax. PPE costs have been considerable.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 8/9/2020

6.0. To receive a report from the District Councillor. For information only

- Cllr Harris reiterated that NFDC also has a huge shortfall of income due to reduction of business rates, parking charges and income from health and leisure centres. NFDC is losing £1,000 000 income per month.
- NFDC has worked hard on the active distribution of £40,000,000 in grant funding to help local businesses effected by Covid 19.
- A further £1.7 million has now been made available to help businesses who were not eligible for other grant funding (such as B&B's).
- The New Forest is experiencing extreme littering issues. NFDC is helping to deal with this.
- The district council launches a new website along with updated telephone numbers next month (callers using the old phone number will be redirected).
- A NFDC task group is now working on an action plan to get the local economy going again. Finance, resources, and support will be made available to local businesses and communities.
- Health and Leisure centres are due to reopen imminently.

6.1 To receive questions on the report from the District Councillor

None

7.0. Public session

None

Chairman's signature:

Date: 8/9/2020

8.0. Finance

To receive payments for June/July 2020 in accordance with the budget and to note bank reconciliation.

Resolved: Payments were received as shown on table below.

East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule				
<i>Payee</i>	<i>Bacs date</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Payment</i>	<i>folio</i>
Payments				
Microsoft	05/06/2020	office 365	£5.99	29
Kingsley Parish Council	10/06/2020	councillor training	£53.33	30
Royal Mail	13/06/2020	subscription	£36.00	31
plusnet	01/07/2020	parish council phone	£7.35	32
HMRC	06/07/2020	employees Nat ins	£8.36	33
N Curzon	06/07/2020	Clerk salary	£853.30	34
N Curzon	06/07/2020	Clerk expenses	£33.02	35
Microsoft	06/07/2020	office 365	£5.99	36
Forestry England	10/07/2020	football pitch rent	£225.00	37
Total paid			£938.03	
Amount transferred to current account			£2,000.00	48
Receipts as at date			Detail	Amount
Bank interest		monthly interest	£2.35	47
Total receipts			£2.35	
Bank reconciliation				
Balance as at date				
HSBC Current			£2,026.41	
HSBC Savings			£18,376.05	
Total			£20,402.46	
Net bank balance as at date				
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows				
Opening balances			£22,261.97	
Add receipts			£11,461.80	
less payments			-£13,321.31	
uncleared cheques			0.00	
Total			£20,402.46	

9.0. Planning - To consider planning applications:

Resolved:

20/00425	Certificate of lawfulness	PADDOCK ADJACENT TO HEATHLANDS, PAGES LANE	14/7/20	The parish council offers support and has no objections to the formalisation of use of the paddock as a garden (it has been used as a garden for more than 10 years) The parish council is in favour of the planting of native hedging to replace the cedar trees.
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10.0 To receive a report on the meeting with PC Eastwood.

Cllr Hawker and Cllr Holmes met PC Eastwood in East Boldre to discuss the continued anti-social behaviour in the village. The parish council will be looking at various solutions to issue. PC Eastwood is very aware of all the problems in East Boldre, he offered useful advice on CCTV devices. The police are concerned that many residents are leaving themselves unprotected (with back doors and sheds left unlocked).

Resolved: Cllr Hawker and Cllr Holmes will contact the persons responsible for security at the Village Hall and the SFT Hall to ensure that the best security for the village is provided. Advice will be offered to residents in the next newsletter.

Action KH/BH/NC

Chairman's signature:

Date: 8/9/2020

11.0. To review and amend the allotment rules

Various small changes to the rules were agreed, the updated rules will be sent to all allotment holders and posted on the parish council website.

Action KH/NC

12.0. To receive an update on the convex mirror

Following discussion at Verderers court, Cllr Gabzdyl reported that the parish council request to install a convex mirror opposite the entrance of Matthews Lane has been turned down.

Resolved: Once the Verderers Court publish the minutes for their meeting, Cllr Gabzdyl will invite Cllr Mans, Cllr Harris, Nick Wardlaw of FE, and a representative from NFNPA to a meeting to suggest a way forward.

Action RG

13.0. To address issues arising from the internal audit:

Resolved:

- 1 The clerk has adjusted the asset register so that the BT kiosks show the purchase price of £1.00 rather than their insurance value.
- 2 The auditor amended the software in PAYE so that it calculates employer's national insurance contributions where necessary.
- 3 For the sake of transparency and compliance, the council has now adopted the system where those with a DPI do not Chair that item in the meeting, so that the Chair is independent of the discussion.
- 4 East Boldre is subject to an external audit this year. All AGAR forms will be signed and sent on PJ Littlejohn once the parish council is able to meet in person.

14.0 To discuss the increased use of Hatchet Pond and the affect this has had on the surrounding area.

The clerk has received several emails from New Forest litter pickers who have been shocked at the huge increase in litter around East Boldre. They have also noted that around Hatchet Pond there is plenty of evidence of human excrement at and around the site of the closed toilets. While several other facilities maintained by Forestry England are also closed, they are making updates and changes to locks and cleansing schedules ahead of re-opening, but nothing is in evidence at Hatchett. It is rumoured that FE intends to demolish them with no other public toilets in the area. There have also been several complaints about visitors parking along the main Brockenhurst to Beaulieu road, as well as along Main Road in East Boldre.

Resolved: The clerk will contact Bruce Rothnie at Forestry England, as well as Nigel Mathews at NFNPA to raise these concerns. The parish council would like to see:

- 1 More clear signage, particularly around Hatchet Pond.
- 2 Consequences for breaking bylaws – including parking on verges, dropping litter, petting or feeding animals, swimming and paddle boarding at Hatchet Pond.

The parish clerk will seek clarity about the re-opening of the public toilets at Hatchet Pond. The clerk will also invite Bruce Rothnie and Nigel Mathews to the next Parish Council meeting so they can update residents.

15.0. To receive reports from external meetings

Cllr Clark attending a School Fields Trust committee meeting and sent a report to the council:

SFT will only re-open when they are confident it is safe to do so. The hall itself will remain closed for July and August. The committee will review this in September for low risk activities. The committee feel that the playground – the only one in the village – should be opened as soon as they are confident to do so now that playgrounds are allowed to open, so they are researching online advice for terms of opening, given the site is unsupervised, and are liaising with village hall/ACER on guidelines, which are subject to quite frequent change at the moment it seems. The car park barrier will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile SFT are continuing to maintain and refurbish the grounds, including carpark, fencing, cattle grid, treework and hedging. Tennis courts are repainted and in use for maximum 6 people from one household/group. No Junior tennis at present.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 8/9/2020

CLlr Hawker attended the NF Quadrant meeting:

Planning update Fawley

- Revised plan has been submitted. It is the largest development in the south of England.
- District council planning committee meeting to consider revised plan July 27th
- NPA planning committee meeting to consider revised plan July 28th
- Natural England broadly supporting development and have been asked to contribute towards habitat development.

Vision for Waterside

- District and County Council vision for Fawley to Totton includes housing allocation, military port, Dibden Bay and refinery.
- Government asked to contribute to infrastructure e.g. costs of roads, and possible development of a country park on the north eastern side of the New Forest area to reduce pressure on the New Forest and its unique habitat.

Dealing with Covid 19 Pandemic

- National Park Authority workforce all worked from home.
- Rangers now back on duty.
- Initially positive impact on New Forest environment e.g. quieter roads, greater observations of wildlife, reduced pollution.
- Once restrictions lifted increased numbers of people using the Forest resulting in increased numbers of cars parking on verges, use of portable BBQ, increased amount of litter etc.
- Forestry England and Rangers working together to remind visitors of their responsibilities.
- Use of social media to promote NF code.
- Discussions raised the need for more signage across forest, Rangers to be given more powers, more staff to carry out jobs required including volunteer rangers and residents.
- Parish Councils could consider ways in which parishes could help.

National Partnership Plan

- Non designated heritage assets to be identified and listed. These include buildings and structures.
- Parish Councils to consider any buildings in their Parish they would like to be included on the list e.g. buildings made of cob, telephone boxes. Contact David Isley.
- Design Guide document 2011-2012 is a little out of date. A supplementary document has been produced and linked to national documents. This is currently out for consultation.

11.0. Agenda items for next meeting.

- 1** To discuss the proposed ward name for the newly grouped parishes (currently referred to as Beaulieu, Boldre, East Boldre and Exbury & Lepe).
- 2** To receive an update on Hatchet Pond.
- 3** To discuss the role of the allotment association.
- 4** To receive an update on the convex mirror for Mathews Lane.

12.0 To confirm the next Parish Council meeting as 7.00pm on 11th August only if urgent business to discuss, or on 8th September 2020. The parish council hopes that the meeting can be held in East Boldre Village Hall. However, it may be held online due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Chairman's signature:

Date: 8/9/2020