

**East Boldre Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall
on Tuesday 12 September 2023**

Councillors present: Beverley Hawker (Chair); Ian Moyse (Vice-Chair), Anna Rostand, Mike Urwin.
In attendance: Cllr Dan Poole, Liz Welch (Parish Clerk), 2 members of public.

1.0 To accept apologies for absence

Received from: County Cllr Keith Mans, Parish Cllrs Michael Husband and Teresa Morrissey.

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 11 July 2023.

3.1 Matters arising

BH gave an update on item 6, a request for a replacement bin near the village hall. Neighbouring Parish Councils recently received extremely high invoices from NFDC for bin emptying services. East Boldre has not been invoiced, Cllrs believe that this is because the bins are located on the open forest.

4.0 To receive Clerk's report

Allotment Committee members organised an open day and picnic on 13 August as part of National Allotments Week, with generous support from the Fruit Farm, Turfcutters and Waitrose. Their Taste of East Boldre event was held on the 3 September.

A member of public reported that, in replacing a telegraph pole, Openreach have removed a letterbox. Cllr Husband is already on the case and awaits their response, and the Clerk also contacted Royal Mail.

Over the summer the Clerk was able to complete 3 ILCA training modules online.

The Clerk contacted Enforcement regarding non-compliance on a property in East Boldre.

The Parish Council's printer packed up in August. A replacement has been purchased, along with a 3 year warranty at a cost of £249 inc VAT.

As East Boldre Community Stores prepare a plaque to show funding support, Cllrs were asked to confirm that the lighter version of the EBPC logo should be used in place of the darker version. Cllrs confirmed this.

Analytical data will shortly be available for the EBPC website.

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

None.

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 reported that an assessment of East Boldre's bins had been carried out and concluded that East Boldre have an adequate number of bins. The NFDC assessor also reported that the bin previously located outside the village hall had not been supplied by NFDC. It was agreed that Cllrs would come back to Cllr Poole if they wished to pursue the matter further.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 10/10/2023

A Community Forum will take place on 18 October to discuss public concern on the rising cost of living and the impact on local residents. Cllr Poole hopes that the event will facilitate information sharing and support among parishes and charities. EBPC will be represented by AR and the Clerk.

NFDC are supporting the New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards - nominations are being encouraged before the 1 October deadline.

Cllr Poole advised that he has a small grant available to support eligible local projects.

6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor

AR called for action to reduce animal casualties on roads, after distressing scenes in East Boldre recently. Cllr Poole has been advised by the NPA that although of great concern, numbers have gone down so far this year. Cllrs agreed that a visible public tally or similar would help make drivers more aware and asked the District Cllr to support as best he can.

7.0 Public session

Rebecca Gabzdyl of East Boldre Community Stores (EBCS) offered a progress report on developments to date. The refurbishment is going well, the teak floor is currently being restored, and solar panels have been delivered. The budget is tight however and being very carefully managed. Ms Gabzdyl praised the goodwill and generosity of local residents for sharing time and expertise.

8.0 Community Stores Post Office consultation

BH advised those present that the Clerk had responded to the Post Office online consultation to support the application for a Post Office in the new Stores. EBCS await a final decision, and in the meantime have put in a parallel request for a post box at the Stores alongside a request to remove the box used by the current village shop.

BH brought item 11.3 forward. BH explained that at a previous meeting Cllrs suggested the possibility of the Parish Council funding a community noticeboard and it being placed at the community stores. In response, EBCS proposed a board that would include parish council info and details about the stores. A significant amount of funding from the Parish Council would be required to purchase the board. BH informed Cllrs that guidance requires the Parish Council to control the board it places notices on to avoid inappropriate relationship with other content. It was therefore unfortunate the proposal does not meet this requirement. The Parish Council remains open to contributing to funding a community board which is controlled by the Parish Council and would include basic information about the shop. If this is not achievable the Parish Council could site a new noticeboard in the bus shelter opposite the current shop when it closes. Ms Gabzdyl explained that EBCS have already allocated space for Post Office signs and acknowledgments to key funders. Ms Gabzdyl informed Cllrs that notices to advertise services can only be displayed in the shop in keeping with planning regulations. Cllrs supported the proposal; Ms Gabzdyl emphasised that the Stores will support community events as best it can.

AGREED:

A new noticeboard would be sourced and displayed in the bus shelter opposite the existing shop when it closes.

9.0 Finance

9.1 To review monthly accounts and to note bank reconciliation

Cllrs reviewed monthly accounts and noted the bank reconciliation for July and August (appendices 1 and 2). BH advised that the Parish Council awaits a further invoice from the surveyor.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 10/10/2023

RESOLVED:

Cllrs approved the monthly accounts and bank reconciliation for July and August 2023.

10.0 **To review planning applications**10.1 23/00867FULL: Fiddlesticks Cottage, Main Road, East Boldre, Brockenhurst, SO42 7WD

A ground floor extension, IM noted that the NPA stated floorspace was compliant. Cllrs were concerned by the inconsistent nature of the extension with varying heights and materials, which lack continuity and detracts from the original thatch building.

Cllrs were in agreement to accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers. However, Cllrs consider that the design is not cohesive and detracts from the original thatch structure.

10.2 23/00193FULL: The Old Chapel, Lymington Road, East End, Lymington, SO41 5SS

MU considered it a shame to lose a commercial building in the village there is a shortage. Cllrs agreed that the building is of great interest and has historical significance to villagers, believing that it is already on the Park Authority's conservation list.

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 Parish Council feels strongly that the Old Chapel should maintain its character and not have any kind of adverse impact from the street view.

RESOLVED:

As above.

ACTION:

Clerk to inform NPA Planning Department of Cllrs' Decisions.

11.0 **Governance**

11.1 To consider a revised format for the Parish Council newsletter

Cllrs considered a proposal from the Clerk to produce future editions of the Parish Council's newsletter in an electronic format, with around 100 hard copies for distribution at public buildings in the village. The proposal would make significant savings and reflect the Parish Council's desire to be more environmentally aware. Welcoming the initiative, MU suggested that the number of hard copies should be subject to review, with a note in the newsletter to say that hard copies are available on request. BH requested costings for the electronic format and suggested that the frequency of publications should be realistic and agreed at a future date. Emphasising the need to engage recipients, AR suggested that a quiz corner should be considered.

11.2 To consider a grant request from Victim Support

One grant application was submitted to the Clerk. While noting the important role that organisations like Victim Support play, BH asked whether priority should be given to applications from East Boldre community-led organisations specific groups. Cllrs welcomed news of a Baby & Toddler group that is about to start in the village. It was felt that the Parish Council could do more to encourage such groups to come forward with small funding requests.

11.3 Parish Council noticeboards

Item 8 above.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 10/10/2023

RESOLVED:

1. Cllrs agreed that grants from the Parish Council should be more targeted to support local groups.
2. Cllrs decided that on this occasion the grant request from Victim Support is declined.
3. Cllrs agreed to pursue plans to relocate the noticeboard outside the village shop when it closes to the bus shelter opposite.

ACTION:

1. Clerk to advise Cllrs of publisher software costs that may be needed.
2. Clerk to research and devise a user-friendly format.
3. One e-newsletter to be published in 2023/24.
4. Clerk to mention potential grants for community-led groups are invited before 2 October 2023 in the newsletter 'East Boldre and Beyond'.
5. Clerk to respond to Victim Support.
6. Clerk to action noticeboard relocation when the shop closes.

12.0 Broadband update

IM offered those present an update. Subterranean channels between posts are underway. Latest deadline is set for December. Forestry England have just one specialist constructor for work on Crown Land which can cause considerable delay.

13.0 **To receive reports from external meetings**

IM attended the New Forest Consultative Panel. Those present were asked to support the Commoners Defence Association who are seeking to raise £400,000 to challenge an unlawful development on common land to the north of the Forest. Controversial Government planning consultation to allow residential conversions as permitted development was discussed; Cllrs agreed that the EBPC should submit a statement in support of the NPAs response. The objection to temporary campsites has been withdrawn. Development of the Free Port continues and is expected to create 15,000 jobs. NFDC has created funding opportunities for new start ups.

MU, BH and AR attended an NPA planning brief with Steve Avery. The event was both well presented and informative. Presenters focussed on the current Government consultation mentioned above and on enforcement issues.

BH reported that a speedwatch volunteer meeting took place in July. Praising the work of volunteers who have contributed so much, BH added that more volunteers needed for East End. Recent speedwatch events clocked 167 vehicles; in total 11 drivers significantly exceeded speed limits.

ACTION:

1. IM to respond to the Government's planning consultation on behalf of EBPC, to support the objections raised by NPA.
2. Clerk to ensure that NPA planning handouts are made available for new Cllrs in the future.

14.0 **Agenda items for next meeting**

H&S policy review; allotments; grants.

15.0 **Date of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 10 October at East Boldre Village Hall; a meeting will be scheduled for August only if required for urgent matters.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 10/10/2023

Appendix 1 - Monthly payment schedule

East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule - Sep 2023						
<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Folio</i>	<i>trans</i>	<i>Amount</i>	
Payments						
04-Sep-23	Royal Mail	PO Box	45	DD	39.60	
18-Sep-23	Kimcell	Website hosting	46	BP	360.00	
21-Sep-23	HSBC	bank charges	47	DR	5.00	
22-Sep-23	Go Cardless	Office 365	48	DD	14.83	
29-Sep-23	Plusnet	Parish Cl Phone	49	DD	9.74	
29-Sep-23	E Welch	Clerk	50	BP	626.16	
29-Sep-23	Kimcell	Website domain renewal	51	BP	150.00	
29-Sep-23	E Welch	New Printer reimburse	52	BP	249.99	
29-Sep-23	HMRC	PAYE/NIC to 5 July	53	OBP	79.16	
29-Sep-23	HMRC	PAYE/NIC to 5 Sep	54	OBP	78.00	
Total payments					£1,612.48	
Receipts						
12-Sep-23	HSBC	Interest	52	bacs	28	
28-Sep-23	NFDC	Precept	54	bacs	8000	
Total receipts					£8,028.00	
Money transferred						
18-Sep-23	HSBC	transfer	53	TFR	1000	
29-Sep-23	HSBC	transfer	55	bacs	£500.00	
Bank reconciliation						
Balance as at date						
HSBC Current					£566.91	
HSBC Savings					£24,455.74	
Less unrepresented cheques						
Net bank balance as at date					£25,022.65	
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows						
Opening balances					£15,285.23	
Add receipts					£18,140.38	
less payments					-£8,402.96	
Closing balance as per the balance sheet					£25,022.65	

Chairman's signature:

Date: 10/10/2023

Appendix 2 - Monthly report September 2023

	2022-23	23/24		
	Actual	Budget	YTD	Forecast
	£	£	£	£
Council business				
Income	16,076.03	16012.00	8,115.99	16,200.00
Expenditure	13,408.43	-16325.00	5,451.01	- 16,325.00
Expenditure as % of precept	83.80		68.14	
Surplus (deficit)	2,667.60	-313.00	2,664.98	- 125.00
Projects				
Income			-	
Expenditure	4,104.49	-1000.00	-	- 1,700.00
Surplus (deficit)	- 4,104.49	-1000.00	-	- 1,700.00
Allotments				
Income	1,530.00	1748.00	1,771.25	1820.00
Expenditure	2,599.02	-1695.00	693.23	-1695.00
Surplus (deficit)	- 1,069.02	53.00	1,078.02	125.00
VAT recovered	1,308.61		225.14	
VAT paid	1,073.63		36.87	
net	- 234.98		188.27	
Total surplus (deficit)	- 2,270.93	-1260.00	3,931.27	- 1,700.00
Reserve brought forward	14,014.15	9786.00	11,743.22	9,786.00
Reserve carried forward	11,743.22	8526.00	15,674.49	8,086.00
Cash at bank	15,285.23		18,607.13	
Adjustments				
Cash book balance	15,285.23		18,607.13	
Reserves	11,743.22	8526.00	15,674.49	8,086.00
Commitment	3,542.37	2509.00	2,932.64	2,933.00
Total	15,285.59	11035.00	18,607.13	11,019.00
Council business Income				
precept	16,000.00	16000.00	8,000.00	16,000.00
bank interest	76.03	12.00	115.99	245.00
Total	16,076.03	16012.00	8,115.99	16,245.00

Chairman's signature:

Date: 10/10/2023

Council business expenditure				
salary	8,427.88	9000.00	3,529.00	9000.00
stationery/post/phone	669.16	600.00	216.04	600.00
travel	216.50	400.00	75.60	400.00
office	366.63	400.00	130.00	312.00
equipment		600.00	-	700.00
training	306.42	300.00	-	300.00
newsletter	556.00	450.00	-	450.00
hall hire	300.00	250.00	-	300.00
audit	190.00	200.00	190.00	200.00
insurance	481.65	500.00	481.02	500.00
defibrillators	396.00	400.00	-	400.00
Speedwatch	28.00		-	
football pitch	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00
subscriptions	1,211.82	1500.00	604.35	1500.00
election expenses		500.00		0.00
maintenance		1000.00	-	1000.00
Total	13,375.06	16325.00	5,451.01	15887.00
Projects income				
grants				
donations				
Total	-		-	
Projects expenditure				
EBOH salary			-	
EBOH other	90.00		-	
grants	4,014.49	1000.00	-	1,000.00
defibrillators			-	
seats				
bus shelters etc				
notice boards			-	700.00
public transport			-	
Total	4,104.49	1000.00	-	1,700.00
Allotments income	1,530.00	1748.00	1,771.25	1,820.00
Allotments expenditure				
rent refund			40.50	40.50
Rent,insurance	670.32	570.00	565.00	570.00
water	282.60	125.00	48.89	150.00
hedging	480.00	600.00	-	600.00
fencing		200.00	-	200.00
maintenance	1,166.10	200.00	38.84	200.00
Total	2,599.02	1695.00	693.23	1,760.50

Chairman's signature:

Date: 10/10/2023