

EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in East Boldre Village Hall on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 7pm

Present:

Chair - Cllr B Hawker
 Vice Chair Cllr I Moyes
 Cllr M Husband
 Cllr R Gabzdyl

In attendance: Mrs Liz Welch, Parish Clerk, Parish Clerk; Cllr K Mans, County Councillor; Mrs Nicola Curzon,

1.0. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr L Clark, Cllr K Holmes, Cllr D Drodge

2.0. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda.

None

3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2021.

Resolved: The council meeting minutes were agreed and they were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

3.1. Matters arising from the minutes

- After consulting with Hythe and Dibden Parish Council and the NSALG, the wording for the allotments deposit scheme was proposed and approved. The deposit will be held by the Parish Council and returned on vacating the plot, provided no maintenance of the plot is required. Rule 24 will be extended to include 'if the council has to carry out maintenance on the plot the tenant will forfeit their deposit'.
- Cllr Hawker confirmed the appointment of Liz Welch as Parish Clerk.

4.0. Clerk's report (Circulated) FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- After a series of handover sessions with her predecessor, the Clerk took up her new post on 2/12/21. She would like to thank Nicola and wish her well with her future ventures.
- The Lymington Times published an article which contained information which had been redacted from the National Park Authority Planning Portal by their Legal Team. Once the Lymington Times were made aware of their error, they published an apology and amended their online publication.
- On 25/11/21 she attended an online meeting about the new Greening Campaign. Funded by a £200,000 Community Renewable Grant and managed by HCC, the focus areas of the grant are: Retrofit, Rewilding and Health & Wellbeing. The first Phase is about Community engagement and requires the purchase of a pack with more information and suggestions to greater involvement among the community. The pack costs £50, which will then allow EBPC to apply for funding for specialist support and action in phases 2-4.
- EBPC has received a payment from the CDA for £200 which will be put towards the purchase of a speedwatch camera.
- An invitation has been sent to Patrick Fairweather to address the annual meeting in March.
- A HALC Briefing Note dated 9/12/21 sets out Covid-19 recommendations in response to national government guidelines. A temporary scheme of declaration was recommended to allow the clerk to implement recommendations made by councillors informally via remote meeting if necessary.
- Once up to speed with her new role, she looks forward to working on the next newsletter. She paid tribute to Cllr Holmes for the high quality of previous newsletters.

Cllr Hawker proposed a temporary scheme of delegation reflecting HALC guidance on Covid-19 procedures. Approved unanimously.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 11/01/2022

In response to clarification sought by Cllr Holmes, Cllr Hawker read a summary of events leading to an erroneous Lymington Times article regarding a planning application, and the subsequent apology published. It was agreed that this summary should be included with these minutes. Appendix 1. Councillors present felt it was important to clarify that it was Cllr Gabzdyl who refrained from voting. The matter is now closed.

5.0 To receive a report by County Councillor for East Boldre. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- Formal County Council meetings will take place every 2-3 months in response to Covid-19 restrictions, with briefings inbetween. Cllr Mans urged people to be vaccinated if they are able.
- The Queen's Jubilee. Cllr Mans has been in touch with the NPA Chief Executive on plans to plant trees, possibly as a coppice, with species that complement the natural environment.
- Cllr Mans has a small budget available still for community-led initiatives from his devolved budget. Applications should be received no later than end Feb 2022.

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

- Cllr Gabzdyl asked if there are plans to re-institute the Rural Communities Fund. Cllr Mans will find out.
- Cllr Husband updated Cllr Mans on the Broadband situation.

Cllr Hawker thanked Cllr Mans for all his support this year.

6.0 To receive a report by the District Councillor for East Boldre. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None

6.1 To receive questions on the report by the District Councillor.

N/A

7.0 Public session.

None

8.0 Finance.

8.1 To receive payments in accordance with the budget and to note bank reconciliation (circulated).

Resolved: Payments to 6 December 2021 were received as shown on the table below:

East Boldre Parish Council payment schedule					
<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Folio</i>	<i>trans</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Payments					
01/12/2021	Plusnet	parish council phone	62	d/d	£7.80
02/12/2021	Bournemouth water	allotment water May-Nov	63	bacs	£150.89
02/12/2021	SCAS	CPR training	64	bacs	£50.00
02/12/2021	Datacenta	email hosting	65	bacs	£60.00
02/12/2021	N Curzon	Clerk salary	66	bacs	£645.99
02/12/2021	N Curzon	Clerk expenses	67	bacs	£43.73
06/12/2021	microsoft	office 365	68	d/d	£5.99
02/12/2021	Royal Mail	po box	69	d/d	£36.60
06/12/2021	Norton Dublin	annual software security	70	d/d	£89.99

Chairman's signature:

Date: 11/01/2022

06/12/2021	Norton Dublin	annual software security	71	d/d	£29.99
Total payments					£1,120.98
Receipts					
12/11/2021	HSBC	bank interest	51		£0.17
01/12/2021	HMRC	Vat return	53		£228.70
03/12/2021	CDA contrib for SID	cash to account	54		£120.00
06/12/2021	CDA contrib for SID	cheque to acc	55		£80.00
Total receipts					£428.87
Money transferred					£1,000.00
Bank reconciliation					
Balance as at date					
HSBC Current					£985.17
HSBC Savings					£18,453.43
Less unrepresented cheques					
Net bank balance as at date					<u>£19,438.60</u>
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows					
Opening balances					£15,695.92
Add receipts					£17,852.89
less payments					-£14,110.21
Closing balance as per the balance sheet					<u>£19,438.60</u>

Monthly report - date: 6/12/21

	20/21	21/22		22/23	
	Actual	Budget	YTD	Forecast	Budget
Council business					
Income	£15,010.00	£16,010.00	£16,001.19	£16,002.00	£16,002.00
Expenditure	£15,801.00	£16,315.00	£9,796.77	£15,271.27	£14,405.00
Expenditure as % of precept	105.34	102.0	61.2	95.4	90.03125
Surplus (deficit)	-£791.00	-£305.00	£6,204.42	£730.73	£1,597.00
Projects					

Chairman's signature:

Date: 11/01/2022

Income	£6,676.00	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00
Expenditure	£12,255.00	£3,300.00	£720.00	£3,700.00	£2,300.00
Surplus (deficit)	-£5,579.00	-£3,300.00	-£520.00	-£3,700.00	-£2,300.00
Allotments					
Income	£1,587.00	£1,423.00	£1,423.00	£1,423.00	£1,585.00
Expenditure	£2,037.00	£1,500.00	£559.26	£1,546.00	£1,500.00
Surplus (deficit)	-£450.00	-£77.00	£863.74	-£123.00	£85.00
VAT recovered	£2,912.00		£228.70		
VAT paid	£2,643.00		£539.18		
net	£269.00	£0.00	-£310.48	£0.00	£0.00
Total surplus (deficit)	-£6,551.00	-£3,682.00	£6,237.68	-£3,092.27	-£618.00
Reserve brought forward	£17,262.00	£10,695.92	£10,695.92	£10,695.92	£7,603.65
Reserve carried forward	£10,711.00	£7,013.92	£16,933.60	£7,603.65	£6,985.65
Cash at bank	£15,696.00	£12,021.00	£19,438.60		
Adjustments					
Cash book balance	£15,696.00	£12,021.00	£19,438.60	£0.00	
Reserves	£10,711.00	£7,021.00	£16,933.60	£7,603.65	
Commitment	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£2,505.00	£2,505.00	
Total	£15,711.00	£12,021.00	£19,438.60	£10,108.65	
	20-21 Actual	21-22 Budget	21-22 YTD	21-22 Forecast	22-23 Budget
Council business Income					
precept	£15,000.00	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	£16,000.00
bank interest	£10.00	£10.00	£1.19	£2.00	£2.00
Total	£15,010.00	£16,010.00	£16,001.19	£16,002.00	£16,002.00
Council business expenditure					
salary	£8,905.00	£9,000.00	£5,813.91	£9,000.00	£7,700.00
stationery/post/phone	£595.00	£550.00	£457.97	£550.00	£550.00
travel	£175.00	£400.00	£97.60	£200.00	£200.00
office	£401.00	£400.00	£299.97	£400.00	£400.00
equipment	£677.00	£600.00	£73.61	£200.00	£600.00
training	£83.00	£500.00	£366.00	£500.00	£500.00
newsletter	£378.00	£500.00	£0.00	£400.00	£400.00
hall hire	£8.00	£300.00	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00
audit	£430.00	£450.00	£440.00	£440.00	£440.00
insurance	£439.00	£440.00	£450.27	£450.27	£440.00
defibrillators	£505.00	£450.00	£396.00	£396.00	£400.00
election exp.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Chairman's signature:

Date: 11/01/2022

football pitch	£225.00	£225.00	£225.00	£225.00	£225.00
subscriptions	£1,254.00	£1,500.00	£926.44	£1,260.00	£1,300.00
maintenance	£1,726.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Total	£15,801.00	£16,315.00	£9,796.77	£15,271.27	£14,405.00
Projects income					
grants	£6,021.00		£200.00		
donations	£655.00		£0.00		
Total	£6,676.00	£0.00	£200.00	£0.00	
Projects expenditure					
EBOH salary	£1,952.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
EBOH other	£4,614.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
grants	£1,759.00		£150.00	£400.00	£0.00
defibrillators	£3,930.00	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
seats		£50.00		£50.00	£50.00
bus shelters etc		£1,000.00		£1,000.00	£1,000.00
notice boards		£1,000.00	£570.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
public transport	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£12,255.00	£3,300.00	£720.00	£3,700.00	£2,300.00
Allotments income	£1,587.00	£1,423.00	£1,423.00	£1,423.00	£1,580.00
Allotments expenditure					
rent refund	£15.00	£12.50	£12.50	£12.50	£0.00
Rent,insurance	£774.00	£550.00	£345.00	£536.00	£550.00
water	£339.00	£350.00	£201.76	£250.00	£250.00
hedging	£360.00	£200.00	£0.00	£360.00	£360.00
fencing		£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
maintenance	£564.00	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
Total	£2,037.00	£1,500.00	£546.76	£1,546.00	£1,560.00

8.2 To confirm appointment of internal auditor

- Eleanor Greene on Monday 9 May 2022.
- Cllr Hawker confirmed the intention to update East Boldre Parish Council's HSBC bank accounts with a mandate to remove former Clerk Nicola Curzon and add Clerk Liz Welch and Cllr Moyse as signatories alongside Cllr Hawker. **Resolved:** Clerk to action.

9.0 To consider planning applications

Resolved:

21/00994	Two stables and a workshop/store; demolition of existing outbuilding	NORFOLK END, MAIN RD, EAST BOLDRE	11/11/21	Comment 3. We recommend PERMISSION, providing that it not be used for accommodation and any lighting is sensitive to wildlife ie bats/owls	14/12/21
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9.2 To consider tree application: CONS/21/0618

Resolved: No objections raised. The Clerk to respond to the NPA and request that the Cyprus is replaced with a tree or shrub sympathetic to the environment.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 11/01/2022

A further tree application was received to remove an oak at Heather Lea House, East End, SO41 5ST. Deadline for comments: 30/12/21. **Resolved:** Clerk to respond to NPA and request an explanation for the tree works.

10.0 To receive a broadband update

Cllr Husband gave the following update further to his meeting with Stephen Harris of Open Reach:

1. A brief reminder there are what Openreach refer to as 6 structures in the East Boldre project of these two are in the 'East End' of the village and being covered by a Community Fibre Partnership scheme. The remaining 4 are towards the denser populated part of the village and are what Openreach describe as live. For two of these work will start this week and be completed by 31.12.21. The other two will be completed by 31.3.22 but they are endeavouring to bring this forward.
2. Community Fibre Scheme. East End. The number of properties giving outline commitment more than covers the costs taking account of the voucher values applied. There are some outstanding permission issues involving Natural England. Meetings are being held to ensure the Openreach process overcomes N.E concerns. Subsequent to this a planning application will be made to the National Park Planning Authority. Assuming this all goes to plan there is likely to be a fairly tight window for those properties to make their commitment to take a fibre connection i.e. by 14.2.22.
3. There are some properties not covered in the current project. I believe this was caused by Fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) to be the solution. This specifically covers Masseys Lane and in Main Road to Bartely House. I will raise this with Glenn Peacey at HCC relative to the next round of funding for Fibre to the property (FTTP), the now preferred scheme.

11.0 To consider the purchase of a Greening Campaign Pack

Cllr Hawker proposed that the Parish Council purchase a Greening Pack (Item 4, Clerk's report) with a view to exploring potential for community involvement. Approved.

12.0 To receive reports from external meetings.

- CPR/ Defibrillator training took place on 23.11.21. Another training is planned for February.
- Cllr Hawker expressed gratitude to Mike Upton for his continued work as chairman of the emergency planning group and requested that the council should write to thank all volunteers who regularly check the defibrillators on a regular basis. **Action** Clerk.
- Cllrs Gabzdyl and Hawker attended the Boldre Parish Council meeting online on the 1st 13.12.21. The community speed watch teams have already raised £940 towards a new speed camera. (Total cost £1172+ VAT- £1406.40). Boldre Parish Council agreed to give a grant for half of the shortfall. East Boldre had already agreed provisionally to grant up to £200 toward the device. Cllr Gabzdyl proposed that the council should pay the outstanding shortfall in the region of £116. All councillors agreed. The speedwatch teams will find it difficult to raise the money to pay the VAT. Cllr Gabzdyl proposed EBPC purchase the camera once all funding had been received and claim the VAT back as soon as purchase was completed. All councillors agreed. If the speed device was placed on the EBPC asset register it will be covered by insurance when not in use and stored in an agreed place. **Action** Clerk to check insurance. It was suggested that an article should be included in the Parish newsletter that will be circulated in February. **Action** Cllr Gabzdyl to follow up.

13.0 Agenda items for next meeting.

- Broadband
- Village Shop update

16.0 To confirm the next Parish Council meeting as 7.00pm on Tuesday 14th December 2021 – venue to be advised pending Covid-19 guidance.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman's signature:

Date: 11/01/2022

Appendix 1:**Statement read by Cllr Hawker; Item 4.0, Clerk's report:**

The clerk has briefed us on her predecessors excellent handling of recent events. I would like to reiterate a few points. Firstly it is wholly unacceptable for councillors operating in the interest of the community to be libelled in the press or in any public setting. We simply cannot accept character assassination based on lies and falsehoods.

We have recently dealt with two planning applications which have generated significant interest in the community. I would like to thank our clerk, who in consultation with the monitoring officer, has assured that we have properly carried out our responsibilities. It is not unusual that those who choose to serve the community as parish councillors might also involve themselves in other community matters. The Localism Act 2011 recognised this and in the interest of local democracy introduced measures to enable councillors to participate fully in any relevant debates.

The key tests became; Do you have a pecuniary interest? Are you predetermined in your views? Have you disclosed your non pecuniary interests?

If it is the first you must exclude yourself from the debate and you cannot vote; if it is the second you can participate in the debate but you cannot vote; if it is the third you can participate fully and vote.

For the second application all but two councillors disclosed a non-pecuniary interest, and one of those assumed predetermination and did not vote.

In respect of each planning application the decision taken by the council was consistent with the advice provided by our delegated experts; and in respect of both was consistent with the decision reached by the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA).

The NFNPA report referred to the letters in support of the second application (retail to residential) but said ' retaining some form of retail unit is more widely supported than the letters would suggest; i.e. they are the view of a small minority.

In this context it was unfortunate that the public comments section of the NFNPA included;

- two comments , one from a member of this council, which suggested that we had not conducted our affairs correctly, and implied a conspiracy to deflate the value of a property.
- One comment from a member of this council which suggests that their predetermined view was not disclosed.

The clerk has dealt with those comments involving councillors, and the monitoring officer has been kept fully informed.

The Lymington Times was directed to these defamatory comments, and on 12 November published an article which included them. The newspaper had made no attempt to check the allegations and was unaware that they had been redacted by the NFNPA; action taken very quickly after a review by their legal teams. The Lymington Times was very clearly in breach of its own code of conduct.

The clerk wrote to the Editor on 15 November to complain; you have seen her letter. As a result the printed version of the Lymington Times published on 19 November included an apology, and the online versions have been amended to eliminate the offensive content. I am sure that we all celebrate the rapid resolution of this matter without recourse to expensive litigation.

Chairman's signature:

Date: 11/01/2022