

EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7.00 pm in the East Boldre Village Hall.

Present:

CLlr Mr K Holmes Chairman
CLlr B Mulhall Vice Chairman

CLlr D Drodge
CLlr B Gregory
CLlr M Sterling

In attendance – CLlr K Thornber, County Councillor; CLlr M Harris, District Councillor; Mrs K Penna, Parish Clerk and three residents.

1.0. To accept apologies for absence

None.

2.0. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

CLlr Holmes and CLlr Drodge declared an interest in items 10.1, 10.2, 10.4.

3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2015

The minutes were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

4.0. Public session

One member of the public wanted to speak about broadband issues in East Boldre. The Chairman gave permission for a resident to speak on item 12.0. at that point of the meeting.

5.0. Clerks' report and information received

5.1. The clerk was due to be attending Speed Watch training on Wednesday July 25th but is has been postponed to a future date to be confirmed.

5.2. A resident has contacted the clerk to enquire about the starting of the youth club in East Boldre as she was interested in volunteering. She had also contacted the resident who had initiated the idea and they were due to have a meeting. The clerk outlined the council's position on the matter and said the council would look forward to receiving an update.

5.3. Councillor Drodge attended the Overview training session organised by Sway PC on the 18th June. The Sway PC clerk said it was a real pleasure to meet Deborah, who was charming and went out of her way to thank her for setting up the course. There are now 5 parish councils who may have new councillors looking to do the remainder of the Core skills and Knowledge course in-house with our councillors as it has transpired that the Overview course was the equivalent to part 1.

5.4. Following the meeting with the Sembcorp representative at allotment site 2, it was established that the increased water usage could be put down to a tap being left on as there was no evidence of a leak. The clerk will monitor the water reading.

5.5. The 'Information received' and the 'Pending' list have been circulated to all councillors.

6.0. To receive a report by County Councillor for East Boldre

Councillor Thornber wished to talk about the defibrillator purchase. The Chairman gave permission for this item to be discussed at this point in the meeting. Councillor Thornber had given a substantial grant to Boldre PC for the purchase of their defibrillator. He noted that the cost of their defibrillator was substantially less than the quotes that had been received by East Boldre PC. The clerk showed that most of the increased cost was for a cabinet for the defibrillator to be kept in and there was also an amount included for training. After discussion it was felt that it may save money to find alternative ways of providing the training. Cllr Harris suggested contacting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Ambulance service. Councillor Thornber, having previously offered a grant of £250 towards the defibrillator, said he would like to increase his grant offer to £500.00. At this point in the discussion, the meeting with Beaulieu PC on their purchase of a defibrillator was brought up. They had very kindly shown two of East Boldre's Councillors and the clerk their defibrillator and cabinet and gave them some ideas on costing. They also made the suggestion that the Parish Council consider adopting the phone box opposite the shop in order to have the defibrillator put in it as it made the access to the power supply much easier. The clerk has since established that this particular phone box could be available for adoption after a 90 day consultation.

Resolved: The adoption of the phone box will be added to next month's agenda. The clerk will get some final quotations on the defibrillator device.

Cllr Thornber told the meeting that there had been another accident at the Bull Hill Cross Roads. The only option available to the council now is to put in a staggered crossroads. Although this is the final traffic calming measure which can be taken, he pointed out that staggered crossroads can have their own problems. The officers will look at the last accident before making any decisions. Another point to be considered is that land taken from the realignment of the road must be reciprocated to The Forestry Commission.

Cllr Thornber told the meeting that he had been made Chairman of the Boundary Group responsible for undertaking the boundary review for Hampshire County Council. When looking at the projected populations, the average figure for a Hampshire County Council Councillor is 13,846 residents when the average elsewhere is around 5000 with some having as few as 3000. Guidance states that a councillor should not be responsible for a group so large that it cannot represent that group adequately. Eastleigh is also requesting an extra councillor to come from the New Forest district.

Cllr Thornber wished to give an update on the Broadband issues recently raised. The Chairman gave permission for this item to be discussed at this point in the meeting. Cllr Thornber explained that dealing with BT, a monopoly supplier is not easy, together with the fact that they did not seem to understand the problems of the New Forest. Cllr Holmes told the meeting that broadband in East Boldre is atrocious. After the bid for funding for Superfast Broadband was achieved by East Boldre, Denny Lodge and Beaulieu PC's, the chairman asked what has happened to the money as there was an incredible amount of hard work put in to get the funding. There has been talk of the difficulties in locating new cabinets due to the Verderers' concerns with the loss of grazing. Cllr Mulhall stated that BT are not required to seek planning permission, but merely inform the Planning Authority as a courtesy. In East Boldre the roadside cabinets exist, so the Verderers have no grounds for complaint, so why is it holding everything up? The member of the public was asked his thoughts on the matter. He was unhappy with the lack of information coming from Hampshire County Council and was unsure all the blame could be placed on the Verderers. He stated that the Beaulieu exchange cannot cope with the capacity and it is not acceptable

for the broadband to constantly drop out. He is unable to work from home because of the very poor service. HCC officers are caught between statutory bodies and BT which is clearly quite exasperating. Cllr Thornber noted that members of the public are now suffering. He is unhappy that areas he has the honour to represent are not getting the level of attention they should be. At this point, the member of the public suggested that all the stakeholders get together for a meeting on the matter. Cllr Mulhall said he could see two problems, (1) is the cabinets and (2) the quantity of equipment in the exchanges. He stated that the performance will not improve until the exchanges are powerful enough to cope. Cllr Thornber told the meeting that £16m had been invested by HCC plus £3m by other authorities plus £10m from the government, so no excuse for lack of equipment. Questions had been asked over whether BT had the resources to undertake the project. There seems to be no urgency in their delivery to hard to reach areas which are obviously less viable for them.

Resolved: Cllr Thornber will arrange a meeting between representatives, including chairman of all parish councils involved.

7.0. To receive a report by District Councillor for East Boldre

Cllr Harris told the meeting that he had arranged for an officer of the New Forest District Council to give a brief talk on issues with vagrants prior to the Beaulieu PC meeting this week. He invited councillors to attend. Cllr Gregory and Cllr Sterling hoped to attend this meeting.

Cllr Harris had recently attended a presentation by a NFDC officer who looks after issues around dementia. He learned some shocking facts about the condition but also that a lot is being done and can be done to help.

8.0. To receive a report by the Allotment Representatives

The allotment representative from site one had attended the inspection which is to be discussed at item 10.1. She also noted that sometimes plot holders at site one use forest verges to park on when access to the allotments is restricted due to wet weather. She asked that consideration be taken in relation to 11.0. and suggested that the council contact the Village Hall Committee to request permission for plot holders to use the Village Hall car park when it is not in full use. It was suggested that the Forestry Commission be copied into the email to show the council's commitment to protecting verges in East Boldre. It was noted that the issue could also arise at site two but there is no natural parking to be utilised outside the site. There is however a slightly more gravelled area inside the site.

ACTION KP

9.0. Finance

9.1. To agree payments in accordance with the budget and to note bank reconciliation.

Resolved: Payments agreed as shown on table below, income and bank reconciliation noted.

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Payment</i>
Payments 14/07/15			
K Penna(Paid K Wright)	100477	Salary	£597.13
K Penna(Paid K Wright)	100478	Expenses	£63.48
Sway Parish Council	100479	Training	£25.00
East Boldre Village Hall	100480	Hall Hire	£250.00
School Fields Trust	100481	Grant	£200.00
Do the Numbers LTD	100482	Int. Audit	£185.00
Total to pay			<u>£1320.61</u>
Amount to be transferred to current account			<u>£1400.00</u>
		Receipts	
Source		Detail	Amount
HSBC		Bank int	£1.02
HSBC		Bank int	£1.16
Plot 34E		Allotm. rent	£30.00
Plot 35		Allotm. rent	£50.00
Plot 31		Allotm. rent	£100.00
Plot 11A		Allotm. rent	£57.50
Plot 11C		Allotm. rent	£24.00
Plot 9G		Allotm. rent	£19.38
Plot 8A		Allotm. rent	£20.92
Plot 7A		Allotm. rent	£12.50
Total income			<u>£316.48</u>
Bank Reconciliation			
Balance as at 13/07/15			
HSBC Current			£902.78
HSBC Savings			£20,462.44
Total			<u>£21,365.22</u>
Net bank balance as at 13/07/15			
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows			
Opening balances	14862.38		
Add receipts	9410.81		
Less payments	2907.97		
Total			<u>£21,365.22</u>

9.2. To receive internal report.

The internal auditor had stated that the records and systems of the council are exemplary. The only recommendations made by the auditor were to ensure all documents on the council's new website are stored in PDF form, the asset register is added to the website together with a link to Member's Interests on the NFDC website. **ACTION KP**

9.3. To receive a quarterly budget review.

The quarterly budget review was presented to the council and it was noted that the budget was running to its forecast. The budget review is attached to the back of these minutes.

10.0. Amenities

10.1. To receive allotment inspection update.

From 54 plots the results are :- 15 grass so excluded, 3 vacant so no comment, 3 just taken on, 3 excellent, 11 very good, 7 work in progress, 2 acceptable, 10 not acceptable.

One plot holder questioned the criteria of the inspection but it was thought that it currently worked well and to keep it as it is. There is a raise in non acceptable plots but it is hoped that with the more frequent inspections this will help the matter.

10.2. To discuss changes to allotment rules.

Following the increased water bill at site 2 which Sembcorp put down to a tap being left on a change in the allotment rules is required to try and prevent this from happening again.

The use of Herbicides and Pesticides at the allotment sites was also under discussion as there had been incidences of the sprays being used inappropriately.

Resolved: A change to the allotment rules will include hosepipes being disconnected from taps when not in use and that boxed in taps must also be locked when not in use. The allotment rules will be brought back to the next meeting for review.

The issue of spraying will be raised at the Allotment Association AGM for discussion with plot holders.

ACTION KP

10.3. To receive an update on the 'Taste of East Boldre' event.

The clerk outlined the details of the event in September which is being arranged by the Allotment Association with the support of the Parish Council. All aspects of the event are going to plan and the event will now include a Scarecrow Festival in East Boldre. This has received much enthusiasm from residents via facebook.

10.4. To discuss vacant plots at site 2.

There are still currently two and a half vacant plots at site 2 which are overgrown once again and contain a lot of Ragwort. The clerk had received a quote for having the plots topped so that the Mypex could then be replaced, but further quotes are needed for comparison. It was also noted that the Ragwort will need to be pulled before the topping takes place but that it would be ideal to have the plots tidied before the Taste of East Boldre event in September. A long term solution to the empty plots could be a Community Orchard. The clerk had done some research and these projects have worked very successfully in other parishes, there is also funding available from various organisations.

Resolved: Two more quotes will be sought for the topping of the vacant plots and brought back to the August meeting. The clerk will investigate further the details of creating a Community Orchard and will come back to the council with an update.

ACTION KP

11.0. To receive information from The Forestry Commission on how they will be dealing with parking on the verges in East Boldre.

The representative from the Forestry Commission was unable to make the meeting but emailed details of the item to the council.

It stated that the many grass verges within the area are all special for a variety of reasons and contribute significantly to the character and appearance of the area. Many of the grass verges are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which means that they are of national importance for nature conservation and are legally protected against damage. It is important to preserve these areas both for their nature conservation value and the contribution they make to the landscape of the villages and countryside.

The verges are being damaged by; Vehicular Parking: Recreational and Residential; Vehicular over running; Construction Work: Parking and storing of materials.

Parking, driving or storing building materials on the grass verges can damage the verges irrevocably and have a harmful impact on their landscape, ecological and grazing value. The National Park and Forestry Commission are working up a leaflet at present that explains all of this in a lot more detail and will be sent to the council once they have been produced, but initially, this is just a 'raising awareness' exercise so as not to take people by surprise. The Forestry Commission would like to be contacted by residents if they are aware of an area that is being heavily eroded and would like to see it protected. The Forestry Commission and Verderers have already identified some areas, and we would combine this with local resident's requests to put together a programme of works.

12.0. To discuss broadband issues in East Boldre.

Item discussed at 6.0

13.0. To receive an update on the purchase of a defibrillator for the parish.

Item discussed at 6.0.

14.0. To receive an update on the SLR insurance payout following the meeting with Beaulieu PC

Cllr Holmes, Cllr Mulhall and the clerk attended a meeting with Beaulieu PC on Thursday 18th June at Beaulieu Village Hall. The history of the SLR device was outlined followed by its demise which had resulted in an insurance payout of £2500.00. Beaulieu PC were as yet unsure of their plans for a speeding device in their parish but suggested they would be happy to have discussions with East Boldre on another shared project if they so wished. Alternatively they were happy to divide the insurance payout and give East Boldre a cheque for one third.

The clerk has subsequently contacted NFDC for costing on SID/SLR deployments from them. This is currently £151.00 plus mileage. Councillor Gregory suggested that the council deduct any SLR costs from the amount and releasing the remainder to be used for the defibrillator. The council will then be in a position to use its SLR budget allowance for deployments from NFDC.

Resolved: The finances will be worked out on this matter and brought back to the next meeting for a decision.

ACTION KP

15.0. To discuss organisation of councillor surgeries.

At the previous meeting a suggestion of a councillor surgery was made by the clerk to encourage resident's involvement in council meetings. Cllr Harris outlined his method of targeting specific areas of a parish by putting a letter through each property door. The letter says that the councillor will be visiting the area to chat with residents and if they wish him to call at their property, then they should display the letter in their front window. It was felt that this could be done as a joint venture with district and parish councillor in East Boldre.

Resolved: It was agreed that the first area for the surgery will be Sweyns Lease as residents from this area have already alerted the council to some issues. Cllr Harris will contact the clerk with a draft letter and some dates for the surgery to take place.

ACTION KP

16.0. To discuss Parish Plan for East Boldre.

Previous discussions on a Parish Plan for East Boldre were postponed until the new website was up and running. It was noted that Parish Plans are community led with representation from the council.

Resolved: A request for residents interested in being involved in the production of a parish plan will be made in the next newsletter. **ACTION KP**

17.0. To discuss the content of next newsletter.

Resolved: Items for the next council newsletter are; Feature on the 'Taste of East Boldre' event; Article on Defibrillator project and request for donations: Request for interest in the Parish Plan; Request for community shed for allotment sites; Village Agent project; Councillor vacancies; Councillor surgeries; Update on Forestry Commission on verges in East Boldre; Social media and new website; Plant life articles. **ACTION KP**

18.0. To confirm recent policy review.

Resolved: The allotment policy will be brought to the next meeting for review. **ACTION KP**

19.0. To receive reports from external meetings.

19.1. New Forest Consultative Panel attended by Cllr Holmes on 2nd July at Brockenhurst Village Hall.

The future consultation on the New Forest National Park's Local Plan was outlined. Cllr Holmes suggested this could be an opportunity for East Boldre PC to raise its concerns about the increased amount of outbuildings being converted to dwellings with permitted development later being applied for in the parish.

20.0. Agenda items for next meeting.

Resolved: Adoption of phone box opposite village stores.

21.0. To confirm date of the next meeting of East Boldre Parish Council

Confirmed as Tuesday 11th August 2015 at 7.00 pm in East Boldre Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

EAST BOLDRE PC BUDGET 2015/16				
	<i>Actual</i>	Budget	Forecast	To date
<i>Income</i>	<i>2014-15</i>	<i>2015-16</i>	<i>2015-16</i>	<i>2015-16</i>
Precept	14271	15000	14271	7135
Bank Interest	10	7	10	4
Allotments rentals	1526	1500	1670	1651
Allotments water	254	250	256	256
Parish guide	0	0	1000	0
Grants	729	0	729	365
VAT recovered	378	200	372	0
Total Income	17168	16957	18308	9411
<i>Expenditure</i>				
<i>Administrative Expenditure</i>				
Salaries, PAYE & NI	5512	5512	7166	1194
Stationery and postage	584	400	400	56
Travel Allowance	278	300	300	34
Equipment	85	300	300	0
Office Allowance	400	400	400	66
VAT paid	372	200	200	22
Training	150	500	500	0
<i>Total Admin cost</i>	7381	7612	9266	1372
<i>Operating Expenditure</i>				
Newsletter	490	600	600	0
Parish guide	0	0	1000	0
Hall Hire	374	250	250	0
Audit & legal fees	420	500	500	0
Insurance	364	400	375	375
Subscriptions	484	550	480	374
Advertising	83	100	100	0
S137 Grants	550	550	550	250
Grants	472	700	700	0
Chairman's expenses	0	60	60	0
Parish plan	0	100	100	0
Election expenses	0	1150	0	0
Website	360	360	360	0
<i>Total Op. Cost</i>	3597	5320	5075	999
<i>Parish maintenance</i>				

Agreed inc.
hrs

New
Councillors

Chairman's signature: K Holmes

Date: 11/08/15

Seats	0	50	50	0	
Bus shelter	0	100	100	0	
Notice Boards	0	100	100	0	
Parking bays	0	0	0	0	No longer council responsibility
Speed Limit Reminder	0	500	500	0	
<i>Allotments</i>					
Rent, ins, NSALG	769	710	710	595	
Water	273	260	380	191	
Hedging	550	900	900	0	
Fencing	2144	1000	1000	0	
Other maintenance	365	500	500	0	Lengthsman
<i>Total Maint. Cost</i>	4101	4120	4240	786	
Grand Total Expenditure	15079	17052	18581	3157	
Summary					
Total Income	17168	16957	18308	9411	
Total Expenditure	15079	17052	18581	3157	
<i>Surplus (shortfall)</i>	2089	-95	-273		
General Fund					
Opening balance	12630	14862	14862		
Add surplus above	2089	-273	-273		
Closing balance	14719	14589	14589		