

EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 7.00 pm in the East Boldre Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Mr K Holmes Chairman

Cllr D Drodge

Cllr B Mulhall

Cllr M Sterling

In attendance –Cllr M Harris, District Councillor; Mrs K Penna, Parish Clerk and two residents.

1.0. To accept apologies for absence

Cllr K Thornber, County Councillor; Cllr Green; Cllr B Gregory; Cllr M Gregory.

2.0. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Holmes declared an interest in items 8.3. 9.1. 10.1. 10.2. 10.3.

Cllr Drodge declared and interest in items 8.3. 10.1. 10.2. 10.3.

3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2016

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

4.0. Public session

Both residents were attending the meeting to discuss broadband. The chairman gave permission for them both to speak at that point in the meeting. One resident requested that the council spoke clearly and one at a time as the acoustics sometimes made it difficult to hear.

5.0. Clerks' Report

5.1. The clerk has received the HALC Annual Review if any councillors would like to see it.

5.2. The clerk has been experiencing some problems with the council laptop. All files and emails have now been moved onto the desktop. The clerk's internet signal has also been very poor but hopes that this has not had an effect on receiving emails.

5.3. The clerk would like to remind all new signatories that they need to go to HSBC in Lymington with their identification and proof of address.

5.4. Unfortunately, some bank charges were accrued by the clerk's failure to transfer funds into the community account. The clerk has paid these charges (£23.33).

At this point Cllr Sterling suggested that the council could pay the charges as it was a simple error. The council agreed to this and the clerk thanked them. **ACTION KP**

5.5. The Lengthsman has cleared all Ragwort at site 2 and strimmed some of the vacant plots.

5.6. The NFDC SLR has been deployed in the village this week.

5.7. The review of the Financial Regulations will now be added to the October agenda.

5.8. A councillor from Beaulieu Parish Council contacted the clerk to say he had received the council newsletter and thought it was very good. He intended to take it to BPC to show them.

5.9. Councillors should have received the Information received list and pending list. If there are any items on either for which you require more information, please advise the clerk.

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

County Councillor not present having given apologies.

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

Cllr Harris began by thanking the council for inviting him to the Taste of East Boldre event which he had enjoyed.

Three issues had been raised with him which included fly-posting in the parish; levels of noise from the Turfcutters' Arms and a marquee at the same establishment which may be a planning issue.

Cllr Harris went on to show a poster which will be displayed in all 189 public toilets in the New Forest and other places. The poster highlights the sometimes hidden problem of domestic abuse and the poster shows how vulnerable children and adults can be helped and protected against the various types of domestic abuse. There had been training sessions for some NFDC staff on recognising signs of abuse and what to do about it. Cllr Harris had found the session very moving as it was stated that one in four people will be subject to some form of the abuse in their lives.

Cllr Harris will send a copy of the poster to the clerk to be displayed on the noticeboard.

ACTION MH/KP

8.0. Finance.

8.1. 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

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Payment</i>
Payments 12/09/16			
K Penna(Paid K Wright)	100548	Salary	£597.13
K Penna(Paid K Wright)	100549	Expenses	£60.92
e-mango	100550	Website	£360.00
NFDC	100551	Vermin visit	£37.74
Total to pay			£1055.79
Amount to be transferred to current account			£0
Receipts as at 12/09/16		Receipts	
Source		Detail	Amount
Bank interest		Interest	£0.90
SSE		Grant	£1350.00
DLPC		Computer	£16.00
Total income			£1366.90
Bank Reconciliation			
Balance as at 12/09/16			
HSBC Current			£2554.29
HSBC Savings			£20,876.61
Total			£23,430.90
Net bank balance as at 12/09/16			
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows			
Opening balances	20,255.72		
Add receipts	10,830.30		
Less payments	8,044.12		
Less uncleared payments	389.00		
Total			£23,430.90

Chairman's signature: K Holmes

Date: 11/10/16

8.2. To receive a grant request from East Boldre School Fields Trust and Cruse Bereavement.

Resolved: A grant of £294.00 for East Boldre School Fields Trust was agreed by the council to purchase fireworks for the village. A grant of £200.00 for Cruse Bereavement was agreed by the council.

ACTION KP

8.3. To consider the purchase of Blackthorn plants for hedging at site 2.

Following a meeting with a Forestry Commission agent, it was suggested that planting Blackthorn hedging in the weak areas of hedging at site 2 would prevent cattle from accessing the site.

Resolved: The council agreed to a sum of £80.00 including VAT and delivery being spent on hedging plants. Cllr Sterling would look at costs of purchasing the hedging locally.

ACTION MS

9.0. Planning.

9.1. To consider tree work application 16/0760 Page End; 16/0865 4 Matthews Lane.

Resolved: No comments on either application.

10.0. Amenities.

10.1. To discuss the problem of rats on allotment site one.

Following a meeting with the pest control officer from New Forest District Council to discuss the issue of an increase of rats at allotment site one, an email was sent to plot holders. The advice from the officer was;

- The poisoning of rats is a very last resort, even for a pest controller and particularly in a large area such as the allotments which houses other wildlife.
- It was suggested that the clearance of the vacant plots has flushed out the rats and that although initially there would have seemed to be many of them, this would start to decrease as the food source decreases.
- Although the rats have been eating the produce on the allotments, it is likely to be the bird food which will keep them hanging around if they have access to it.
- Without dealing with the possible husbandry issues, it is likely the rat problem will continue (or return) even if poisoning is undertaken.
- Compost to be kept enclosed where possible with fine wire mesh on the bottom of the bins.
- Turning over of compost and movement of items on the allotments (where rats could be living) will discourage rats as they do not like movement around their living areas. This includes covered plots which are a haven for rats. The occasional movement of the coverings will help to deter them.
- Good storage of poultry food in rat proof bins and feeding of poultry at night when birds are shut up (if possible).
- Limiting food sources eg. Do not let sunflower heads seed on the ground.
- As much clearance of areas where rats may live as possible.

Resolved: The problem will be continually assessed and reported back to council for any further action required.

10.2. To receive a general allotment update.

The allotment plots are currently looking very good. There are a few plots which have not been cultivated or covered this year and the clerk will be contacting these plot holders following the September inspection to enquire if they wish to continue. There has been consistent interest from prospective new plot holders and with another push, it is likely we could reach nearly full uptake. There is currently a quarter plot vacant at site one and two and a quarter plots vacant on site two.

The Allotment Association will be holding the AGM in October and hopefully a new representative will be found for site one.

Following the review of the EBPC Beekeeping rules, the clerk has received the relevant documents from the bee keeper on site 2 but unfortunately despite emails and a hand delivered letter, no communication has been received from the bee keeper on site one. Any cost resulting from the withdrawal of consent shall be borne by the allotment holder. In line with the Allotment Rules, the clerk will be formally writing to the bee keeper and request the removal of the hives and vacation of the plot. At this point Cllr Sterling informed the clerk that the beehives had been removed and that the plot holder had vacated his plot.

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

The clerk thanked all those who came along to the event and helped or participated in any way. Once again, the weather had been very favourable. Although there seemed to be fewer visitors this year we actually raised more money for the allotments, around £300.00. This put together with the money raised last year should allow for community sheds to be purchased for each site. This will be discussed at the Allotment Association AGM.

The East Boldre Bake Off was a particular success, with some fantastic entries and pictures will soon be available on the website.

A wash up meeting will be arranged for a couple of weeks' time to discuss the possibility of running the event again next year.

11.0. To receive an update on Superfast Broadband in the parish.

The Chairman asked the resident, Mrs Jo Holmes to give an update on the broadband situation so far as she had been working with Cllr Green on the matter. Mrs Holmes informed the meeting that lots of work had been done with the stakeholders and with the assistance of Cllr Thornber. The blockers of the broadband in the parish are The Verderers and Hampshire County Council. The Verderers have stated that cabinets will not be sited on Forest land. Although the parish, jointly with other surrounding parishes had been successful in getting a grant of £1m for broadband, it was uncertain where this money is. There are currently two cabinets in place, one in East End and one in Norley Wood and specific questions have been asked by Cllr Green on when these cabinets will go live but these specific questions remain unanswered. MP Julian Lewis has put pressure on the Verderers by writing to them. Although land in mitigation has been offered to the Verderers, they refuse to enter into any dialogue on the possibility of positioning cabinets. The Forestry Commission however are happy to sign off the applications. Hampshire County Council are due to be putting in an application for the Beaulieu cabinet in the next few months. Nationally it appears that Superfast Broadband has only been delivered in commercially viable areas. The next step is to try and get a meeting on the matter with the Secretary of State. New government legislation which will entitle everyone to at least 2MB

of broadband will eventually be in place but there will be a period of embedding. This legislation will hopefully be able to override the Verderers.

Cllr Harris stated that he felt it was time for him to write again to the Official Verderer, Dominic May.

12.0. To receive an update on the defibrillator for the parish.

The replacement cheque has been received from SSE and banked and the order for the defibrillator has been raised so we are hopefully looking at having the defibrillator in the parish in a matter of weeks. Here will be an opening ceremony arranged for this.

13.0. To discuss pony proof bins.

Following the new pony proof bins which were kindly put in the village by NFDC, there were questions as to whether the bins in Sweyns Lease would be replaced. Further bins would be at a cost of approximately £500 each. Apart from the costs, some consideration should be given to the fact that already, one of the current bins has been vandalised.

Resolved: Cllr Harris will enquire about the possibility of replacing the other bins and this item will be discussed again at the next meeting.

14.0. To discuss the Forestry Commission parking map.

Cllr Gregory had a meeting with Gary North from FC to discuss the proposed dragons' teeth and ditching in the parish to prevent vehicles from parking on the forest ground. The FC had already noted areas which they felt needed the proposed works which were in line with the areas discussed by the council. In his absence, Cllr Green wanted his concerns raised that the restricting of this parking is likely to lead to further parking issues in the parish.

15.0. To confirm recent policy reviews.

Resolved: The Complaints and News Media Policies were reviewed with no changes.

16.0. To receive reports from external meetings.

16.1. South East Quadrant.

Cllr Holmes attended the South East Quadrant meeting held on 6th September. The main topics of the meeting were the blanket ban on fungus picking in the forest and the New Forest National Park Local Plan. There is now a complete ban on picking fungus in the Forest and awareness of this will be raised through education. Attendees were made aware of the Local Plan which is now available for comment which can be done on line.

16.2. New Forest Consultative Panel meeting.

Cllr Holmes attended the New Forest Consultative Panel meeting on the 1st of September. The main topics of this meeting were the same as the Quadrant meeting.

17.0. Agenda items for next meeting.

Resolved: Pony safe bins and Superfast Broadband.

18.0. To confirm the next Parish Council meeting as 7.00pm on 11th October 2016 in East Boldre Village Hall.

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Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman's signature: K Holmes

Date: 11/10/16