

EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at 7pm in the East Boldre Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr K Holmes Chairman

Cllr B Mulhall

Cllr D Drodge

Cllr B Hawker

Cllr I Moyse

Cllr M Husband

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

1.0. To accept apologies for absence.

None

2.0. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda.

None.

3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2019.

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

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

- The clerk is delighted to say that the grant application for £500 which was submitted to Cllr Mans after the last has been accepted and is now being processed. This will enable the parish council to purchase a new projector. The council would like to thank Cllr Mans.
- Having received an email from HALC with advice about new government Accessibility Regulations for Websites and Mobile Applications, the clerk has contacted Emango to ensure that the parish council website meets all government requirements. Emango is currently checking through the government links to provide a consolidate response. Given the nature of the websites that Emango produce and the simple content contained, they are satisfied that accessibility is met for the most part. There are some recommendations that mean images added may need some "alternative-text" descriptions and maybe some ability to increase font size and change to a high contrast background.
- The clerk received an email from an East Boldre resident, asking why the Strawberry Fields Community Club is used by a biker group rather than by the East Boldre Community. He also suggested that the venue could be used as a location for the Village Shop. The clerk informed the resident that the social club is owned by Beaulieu Estate and nothing to do with East Boldre Parish Council. Its location makes it a difficult venue for a village shop. Beaulieu Estate did attend a council meeting with representatives from the biker group at the time they took on the lease. The clerk invited the resident to discuss this matter during public participation at a council meeting if he would like to.

Chairman's signature:

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5.0 To receive a report by County Councillor for East Boldre. For information only.

- Cllr Mans told the council that the county council precept has been set and will increase by 2.99%. Hampshire County Council has one of the lowest precepts in the country.
- A large proportion of the council budget is taken up with special educational needs and elderly care.
- Cllr Mans noted that Hampshire Highways dealt well with the recent snow. Provided that the council receives enough notice from the Met Office of weather conditions, gritters can be deployed early and roads gritted in advance of the snow.
- Cllr Mans also informed the council of the widening of eligibility for the County Councillor Grant scheme. The grant scheme will be open again for applications at the end of May.

6.0. To receive a report by District Councillor for East Boldre. For information only.

- Cllr Harris told the council that there will be a 2.97% increase in the New Forest District Council precept.
- Clare Upton Brown has been appointed as senior planning officer for the district council.
- Cllr Harris was pleased to tell the council that Film New Forest is going from strength to strength. The New Forest Film Festival will be held in June this year.
- NFDC plans to introduce a New Forest “Green Plaque Scheme” which will mark locations where famous people have worked or frequented, for example The Turf Cutters was Ken Russell’s local pub.
- Following a discussion with the Prime Minister’s Office, NFDC hopes to initiate local broadband ombudsman who can liaise with all parties over areas such as where broadband-cabinets can be installed. He hopes that legislation can be put in place to ensure that all new houses are built with superfast broadband infrastructure.
- A further meeting will be arranged between New Forest District Council and Network rail to discuss station signage.

7.0. Public session.

None

8.0. Finance.**8.1. To agree payments in accordance with the budget and to note bank reconciliation(Circulated)****Resolved:** Payments agreed as shown on table below, income and bank reconciliation noted.

| Payee | Bacs details | Item | Payment |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | |
| Payments date | | | |
| N Curzon | 01/02/2019 | Clerk salary | £601.42 |
| N Curzon | 12/02/2019 | Clerk expenses | £95.40 |
| Royal mail | 12/02/2019 | PO box renewal invoice | £330.00 |
| ICO direct debit | 12/02/2019 | Data protection reg | £35.00 |
| N Curzon | 12/02/2019 | Projector and AV adaptor | £598.00 |
| | | Purchased from John Lewis | |
| Bev Hawker | 12/02/2019 | Refreshments for EPE | £32.58 |
| Community Heartbeat | 12/02/2019 | Defibrillator phone system | £120.00 |
| Community Heartbeat | 12/02/2019 | Defibrillator suport cost | £151.20 |
| Quayline | 12/02/2019 | Printing newsletters | £270.00 |
| Total to pay | | | £2,233.60 |
| Amount to be transferred to current account | | | £2,000.00 |
| | | | |
| Receipts as at date | | | |
| | | Detail | Amount |
| HSBC | | bank interest | £3.93 |
| HCC grant | | to purchase projector | £500.00 |
| Bank reconciliation | | | |
| Balance as at date | | | |
| HSBC Currrent | 01/01/2019 | | £24,313.93 |
| HSBC Savings | 01/01/2019 | | £1,514.77 |
| | | | |
| Total | | | £25,828.70 |
| Net bank balance as at date | | | |
| The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows | | | |
| Opening balances | | | £22,984.54 |
| Add receipts | | | £19,268.89 |
| Less payments | | | -£16,424.73 |
| Total | | | £25,828.70 |

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8.2 To agree to set up a direct debit for the annual Data Protection Registration fee.

Resolved: This will allow a saving of £5 per annum (£35 instead of £40)

8.3 To confirm appointment of Internal Auditor.

Resolved: Eleanor Green will do the internal audit on 6/6/19

8.4 To agree costs for hedge cutting at allotments 1 and 2.

Resolved: The lengthsman will cut the hedges at both allotment sites before the end of the financial year. 50% of the hedge cutting can be covered by the lengthsman fund (for the hedges along roadsides) The hedge cutting will cost approximately £1200.00 this cost will include cutting as well as clearing and burning hedge trimmings.

8.5 To agree costs for painting BT kiosks

Resolved: After hedge cutting, there should be approximately £180 left in the lengthsman fund. This needs to be spent by the end of the financial year. The lengthsman will do preparation to work on the BT kiosks now, and the lengthsman fund can be used to cover this cost. It will cost approximately £1000 to renovate each kiosk, some of the lengthsman fund may can be allocated towards these costs in the next financial year. The council has also set aside money in the budget for 2019-2020 to cover this cost.

9.0. Planning.

9.1 To consider planning applications: 18/01000 Dolphins, Heath Lane, 19/00027 The Peverils, Main Road. 19/10019 Pond Cottage, Main Road. 19/00060 6 Pages Lane. Resolved:

| | | | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|---|----------|---|---------|
| 18/01000 | Dolphins, Heath Lane | Single storey side extension; front porch; alterations to dormer windows; timber cladding to first floor; demolition of existing single storey side extension | 20/12/18 | A decision was published by NFNPA on 12 th February, therefore no comment could be made by East Boldre Parish Council | |
| 19/00027 | The Peverils, Main Road | Porch (demolition of existing) | 10/1/19 | Comment 1 East Boldre Parish Council recommend PERMISSION, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers. The parish council notes that the plans have been modified within the guidelines of the previous refusal and believe the proposed work would enhance the property. | 12/2/19 |
| 19/10019 | Pond Cottage, Main Road | Outbuilding with first floor storage (demolition of existing outbuilding) | 18/1/19 | Comment 1 East Boldre Parish Council recommend PERMISSION, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers, provided the construction complies with height restrictions. The council would also like a condition put in place to prevent the outbuilding from being incorporated to become part of the habitable space. | 12/2/19 |
| 19/00060 | 6 Pages Lane, East Boldre. | Two storey side extension | 23/1/19 | Comment 3 East Boldre Parish Council recommend PERMISSION,. The proposal falls within the 100m2 floor space limitation. It does not impact in any negative way on the surrounding area. | 12/2/19 |

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9.2. To consider Tree work application CONS/19/0082.

Resolved: No comment

10.0. To receive a report on the emergency planning evening.

Cllr Hawker and Mike Upton hosted a very successful evening which was attended by 19 residents. A risk assessment has now been created and a working party of 7 residents established, to finalise the local emergency plan, they will meet later this month. 13 residents who attended the evening also volunteered to help in the case of a village emergency.

11.0. To confirm dates of further CPR, defibrillator and first aid courses.

First Aid training will be held in East Boldre Village Hall at 7-9pm on Tuesday 26th March for residents who have already attended CPR and Defibrillator training.

Additional CPR and Defibrillator training will be held at 7-9pm on Tuesday 30th April. There will be a sign-up form for this in the Village shop.

The council will run first aid refresher courses each year.

12.0. To discuss the charges for allotment water and future rent increases.

- The cost of water for allotments 1 and 2 for 2018-19 can only be estimated because of the leak on allotment 2. However, using the water bill for allotment 1 as a reflection of the amount of water used by plot holders, there is a huge increase in the cost of supplying water to the allotment sites (the council received £297.50 in contributions towards water from tenants in 2018 and the water bill for allotment 1 alone was in excess of £330)
- The clerk has spoken to NSALG to obtain legal advice on covering the cost of the increased water charges fairly. The use of water last summer was high due to the extended periods of dry weather. Both the allotment association and the parish council sent out emails asking plot holders to use water carefully and considerately.
- NSALG has suggested that the shortfall in water costs should be split equally amongst all tenants this year, at a cost of £10 per tenant. This will be charged to allotment holders, in April 2019.
- A notice period of 1 year must be given for a rise in allotment rent. The parish council has not increased allotment rent since 2014. The clerk suggests a rent increase of approximately 5% for 2020. (The Forestry Commission increased its rent by 5% in 2016, this has not been reflected in the council allotment rents). Next year the cost of water will be included in allotment rent. In future, there should be a rent rise each year to cover maintenance.
- Although the parish council should not make a profit from allotments, they must allow a fund for ongoing maintenance in the rent charged, to cover ongoing costs. So long as allotment rent is seen as reasonable, the council rent should include maintenance. Any profit collected in a maintenance fund must go back into the allotments.

Resolved: A meeting will be set up this month, between East Boldre Allotment Association, allotment tenants, the parish clerk, Cllr Moyse (the councillor responsible for allotments). Other council members may attend.

13.0. To discuss the removal of the HCC subsidy on the Saturday 112 bus service.

The clerk contacted Peter Shelley at HCC to ask if there was a mechanism in place which would allow parish councils to pay the subsidy for the 112 bus service, and if so, how much of the £6500 would need to be raised. HCC has responded that Parish Councils can meet the cost of bus subsidy

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or community transport costs and there are a number of examples of this in Hampshire. HCC can contract the service on behalf of the Parish Council if required by deed of agreement or following a simple exchange of emails. As the £6,500 saving for ceasing the Saturday journeys forms part of the overall savings required for April this year, if the Parish Council wished to see the Saturday journeys retained it would have to meet the full cost of these: £6,500 per annum.

The clerk contacted Dibden and Hythe, Beaulieu and Boldre Parish Councils as well as Lymington and Pennington Town Council to ask if they might be interested in splitting the subsidy in order to retain the bus service. All parish councils responded that would have difficulty in justifying expenditure for a service that is little used in their Parish. Lymington and Pennington Town Council responded that their 2019-20 budgets have been set and they will only be supporting the re-introduction of the 119 this financial year.

The clerk contacted Sway Parish Council to enquire about the Cango community bus service. The service runs between Sway, Tiptoe, Bashley, New Milton and Lymington. It is funded by Hampshire County Council but each council using the service pays a fee towards administration of the booking service (each parish council pays £2000). The bus service has a fixed route with standard stopping points. Additionally, residents can contact the booking service to a request stop or specific pick up point. The bus service is free, HCC pays a subsidy of roughly £90,000 for the subsidy, the bus service has around 60 passengers per day. John Warden, the chairman of the Cango Users Forum did not think it would be possible to extend the service to East Boldre but suggested a similar service could be set up to include East Boldre, Dibden and Hythe, Beaulieu, Boldre and Lymington.

Resolved: East Boldre Parish Council will look into the provision of a local taxi share service.

14.0. To receive an update on the Village Hub.

Cllr Husband reported that the Village Hall Trust is experiencing challenges with the Verdeers over plans for the Village Hub.

15.0. To receive reports from external meetings.

Cllr Hawker attended the Quadrant meeting. Feedback was given on The Higher-Level Stewardship project, and work will commence on the verge protection in East Boldre within two months. NFNPA also reported that from March this year, they will no longer supply hard copies of planning applications.

16.0. To confirm meeting dates for 2019.

Resolved: The meeting dates for East Boldre Parish Council for 2019 are as follows:

Tuesday 12th Feb, Tuesday 12th March (followed by Annual Parish Assembly), Tuesday 9th April, Tuesday 14th May, Tuesday 11th June, Tuesday 9th July, Tuesday 13th August (only if urgent business), Tuesday 10th Sept, Tuesday 8th Oct, Tuesday 12th Nov, Tuesday 10th Dec (only if urgent business)

15.0. Agenda items for the meeting on 12th February 2019.

To receive feedback on the Allotment Association meeting.

16.0. To confirm the next Parish Council meeting as 7.00pm on 12th March 2019 followed by the Annual Parish Assembly in East Boldre Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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