

**EAST BOLDRE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 6.45 pm in the East Boldre Village Hall.

**Present:**

Cllr B Mulhall (Chairman)

Cllr D Drodge  
Cllr M Sterling  
Cllr B Gregory  
Cllr M Gregory  
Cllr H Green

In attendance – Mrs K Penna, Parish Clerk; Cllr K Thornber, Hampshire County Councillor; Cllr M Harris, New Forest District Councillor; Catherine Kirkham; Rural Housing Enabler from HARA; and nine residents.

**1.0. To accept apologies for absence**

Cllr K Holmes.

**2.0. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda**

Cllr Drodge declared interests in items 10.1, 10.2, and 10.3.

**3.0. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

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

**4.0. Public session**

Residents asked if they could speak on item 10.2. The Chairman gave permission for them to speak at that point in the meeting.

**5.0. Clerks' Report**

**5.1.** The clerk has been contacted by another East Boldre resident who is interested in involvement in a youth club for the parish. I have forwarded the email to a previous resident who had shown an interest in starting a youth club.

**5.2.** The clerk attended a Transparency Code training course run by HALC. It was an extremely interesting course and highlighted that the council are conforming with the code. There is also some funding still available for smaller councils to help with their compliance to the code. The clerk has put in a funding application which will be considered by the DCLG on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**5.3.** The clerk will be undertaking two HMRC webinars in the next couple of weeks. These sessions are related to changes in Real Time submissions.

**5.4.** The clerk will be taking two week's holiday from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March but will still be checking for urgent emails.

**5.5.** The defibrillator is now located in the kiosk and is active and registered. We are waiting now for dates for the training session. (*Show Lymington Times article*)

**5.6.** Councillors should have received the Information received list and pending list. The areas with highlighted question marks are those that the clerk feels can now be removed

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from the list. Please let the clerk know if you feel the items should remain on the 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.**

Cllr Thornber reminded the meeting that although the elections are being held on May 7<sup>th</sup>, he will not be standing for re-election. He said that he had been fortunate as a Councillor to represent the county's largest division of Brockenhurst as a result of the boundary review. He told the meeting that Devolution had been put on the back boiler for at least four to five years.

Following a £500 million cut from Government, the County Council had increased its council tax by 4.99%, 3% of this going to adult social care.

GCSE and A Level results are 5% higher in Hampshire than the national average and 96% of parents have received their first-choice school places in the county.

1100 children are currently in care in the county.

The quality Care Commission have stated that 90% of elderly and social care homes are considered excellent or good.

Lastly Cllr Thornber said there was a positive outcome for broadband cabinets in the forest.

Cllr Mulhall, thanked Cllr Thornber for his report and for all the work he had done on behalf of the parish residents. He then presented Cllr Thornber with gifts for himself and Mrs Thornber as a personal thank you from the East Boldre Parish Council members.

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

Cllr Harris told the meeting that the District's council tax had been increased by 3.4%.

Included with the council tax bills were a reminder of the glass collection text service.

He also explained that the District Council would be taking a far more business approach in order to raise funds. He had recently visited Guildford Borough Council to see how they are progressing in their aim to raise funds through commercial revenue.

## 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>
<b>Payments 14/03/17</b>			
K Penna (K Wright)	100576	Salary	£597.13
K Penna (K Wright)	100577	Expenses	£99.29
Ian Chastenev Electrician	100578	Defib elect	£216.00
NAS	100579	Allot membs.	£111.00
HALC	100580	Trans Code	£18.00
Kevin Bennett	100581	Hedging etc.	£1568.28
<b>Total to pay</b>			<b>£2609.70</b>
<b>Amount to be transferred to current account</b>			<b>£1000.00</b>
<b>Receipts as at 14/03/17</b>		<b>Receipts</b>	
<b>Source</b>		<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bank interest		Interest	£0.51
<b>Total income</b>			<b>£0.51</b>
<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>			
<b>Balance as at 14/03/17</b>			
HSBC Current			£2882.60
HSBC Savings			£19,580.54
<b>Total</b>			<b>£22,463.14</b>
<b>Net bank balance as at 14/03/17</b>			
The net balances reconcile to the cash book for the year to date, as follows			
Opening balances	20,255.72		
Add receipts	18,366.23		
Less payments	16,158.81		
Less uncleared cheques	0.00		
<b>Total</b>			<b>£22,463.14</b>

### 8.2. To receive final budget review.

The Council received the final budget review which showed that the 2016/17 forecast is running to schedule.

### 8.3. To discuss the continuation of the Post Office Box service following recent issues.

Following the last PC meeting, the clerk has experienced difficulties with the bank account and was unable to transfer funds from the Savings account to the Regular account. An error message was constantly received and the clerk contacted HSBC. She was informed that this particular error message related to many different issues. The clerk proceeded to go through all the possible reasons for the error message and followed the instructions of the bank to resolve these. After many phone calls and a vast amount of time the clerk was finally put through to a business account manager. It then transpired that a letter which the bank had sent to the council (possibly a bank statement as this has not yet been received) had been returned to the bank as the post office had said they were unable to deliver it to the PO BOX. This led to the bank freezing the account as it is considered an alert of fraud. It was then quite a considerable effort to get the bank account re activated. The bank told the clerk that 'a number' of letters had been returned to the bank and that this situation could

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arise again. There have always been some issues with the PO BOX and the post office have occasionally delivered Boldre Parish Council mail to our PO BOX. At the cost of £312.00 a year the clerk would like the council to consider if an alternative way could be found. The clerk has asked the East Boldre Post Office if they would consider taking Council mail for the clerk to collect regularly. This may resolve the issue, and be of support to the local post office if a small charge was made. The post master is considering this as an option. Although to confuse the matter further, the post master had experienced a similar situation with the same bank but his letter was undelivered as the bank had put insufficient postage on the letter. The clerk would also like to consider that the Council go 'paperless' on the bank account as this may help.

**Resolved:** The clerk will speak to the village post master and establish if he would consider taking in the council mail for the clerk to collect from him. The clerk will report back to the council on the matter.

#### **8.4. To confirm clerk's pay and agreed hours.**

**Resolved:** Clerk's pay is confirmed as 13 hours per week at an hourly rate of £10.60 which is SCP 22.

#### **9.0. Planning.**

##### **9.1. To consider planning applications 17/00097 The Turfcutters Arms; 17/00109 Land at Coronation Cottage; 17/00159 Summerfield.**

**Resolved:** Planning application resolved as shown on the schedule below.

17/00097 L Cooper	The Turfcutter's Arms, East Boldre. Brockenhurst.SO42 7WL.	Retention and alteration of covered seating area; replacement roof; timber cladding	Comment 1 The Council considered the Turfcutter's Arms to be an important amenity to the village and the application has been well supported by residents.
17/00109 A Braid	LAND AT CORONATION COTTAGE, MAIN ROAD, EAST BOLDRE, BROCKENHURST, SO42 7WU	Replacement Agricultural Building	Comment 1 The Council are happy with the application, provided it is used for its stated purpose.
17/00159	SUMMERFIELD, MAIN ROAD, EAST BOLDRE, BROCKENHURST, SO42 7WT	Rendering	Comment 1

##### **9.2. To consider tree work application 17/0164 Sorrento; 17/0188 Pipers Meadow; 17/0189 Norfolk House.**

**Resolved:** No comments.

#### **10.0. Amenities.**

##### **10.1. To receive a report from the recent Allotment Association meeting.**

**Resolved:** The Council received the minutes from the Allotment Association meeting.

##### **10.2. To discuss the possible forming of an Allotment Committee.**

Following the Allotment Association meeting it had been raised by some members that an Allotment Committee should be formed to take over from the Allotment Association. Other members had disagreed with this as they were very happy with the way the current Allotment Association were supporting the allotments.

**Resolved:** After discussion, it was agreed that all plot holders should be given the chance to vote on whether they would like a new committee or would prefer to remain with the

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existing Allotment Association. Voting slips will go to all plot holders with their allotment renewal packs at the end of this month.

**ACTION KP**

**10.3. To consider 2017/18 rents of previously untidy plots.**

The plot holders who had taken on the messy allotment plots last year had been given a year's free rent for 2016/17. The clerk suggested that as the plots had been a considerable challenge to clear and that there is still work to do may be the Council would consider a further rent reduction for this year.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to a 50% discount on rents for the holders of the previously messy plots for 2017/18 as an appreciation of their hard work.

**ACTION KP**

**11.0. To discuss responsibility of checking the defibrillator.**

The defibrillator is now in place and registered. It needs to be checked each week and although the clerk is happy to do this it may result in increased travel claims to the parish.

**Resolved:** Cllr Drodge volunteered to do the weekly check and the clerk will show her how to undertake this.

**ACTION KP**

**12.0. To receive a report on the work of the Lengthsman undertaken this year.**

The Council received the Lengthsman document which showed the work undertaken by the Lengthsman for the year and the list of tasks to be completed. This document is attached to the back of the minutes.

**13.0. To receive an update on Superfast Broadband in the parish.**

Cllr Green has been chasing up updates on the progress of broadband cabinets in the parish. Despite the formal approval for the cabinets being given on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2016, the application did not go in until 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 which highlights how slowly the process moves. The Norley Wood cabinet is now providing Superfast Broadband to many now which is good news but there are no further updates on East End 2. The alternative private broadband solution partly uses private trunking but would be a community project.

**14.0. To discuss the East Boldre football pitch.**

Cllr B Gregory has spoken to the secretary of the East Boldre Football Club. They will be looking at the Forestry Commission lease to see the remaining time left on it. This item will be added to the next agenda when more information is available.

**15.0. To receive reports from external meetings.**

No external meetings had been attended.

**16.0. To confirm recent policy reviews.**

**Resolved:** The Health and Safety Policy, Retention of Documents Policy and Freedom of Information Policy have been reviewed with no changes.

**17.0. Agenda items for next meeting.**

None.

**18.0. To confirm the next Parish Council meeting.**

**Resolved:** Confirmed as 7.00 pm on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in East Boldre Village Hall.  
Meeting closed 8.30pm

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