

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY for East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall,  
At 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 24 April 2013**

**Present:** The Parish Councillors including Alan Redpath (Chairman), Councillor John West, 73 Parishioners and Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from: Councillor David Parkinson, Wilson Atkinson, George Bartlett, and Chris Pamplin.
2. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (18 April 2012) had been circulated, and were signed as a true and accurate record having been proposed by Michael Atkinson and seconded by Denys Ryder.
3. **Chairman's Report** had been previously circulated in Meon Matters and highlighted the Parish Councils' operations and issues over the past year. He thanked his fellow Councillors and Clerk for all their work and support.

**4. Financial Report**

Parishioners were given a copy of the unaudited accounts for year to 31 March 2013 and the Chairman outlined the major differences between actual and budget which cumulated in £1,428.53 improvement on budget and left the year with a £668.53 surplus which would increase reserves to £22,565.46. This is equivalent to one year's budget expenditure and the Chairman reminded those present that previous sources of public grants had largely dried up and of the need to maintain a minimum reserve for future capital projects. He did thank Councillor John West for obtaining a £500 grant in 2012 for much needed pavilion maintenance. The budget for 2013/2014 was challenging but achievable under current constraints. The 2012/13 Accounts were proposed by Frank Moffat and seconded by Sue Barrett.

**5. District and County Council Reports**

Councillor David Parkinson provided the meeting with a written report and Councillor John West a verbal one.

6. **Parish Awards:** Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake made presentations of East Meon Parish plaques to Alison Loudon and Susan Hull for 'Outstanding contributions to the Community'.

**7. Notices**

Anella Parker-Martin advertised the May Fare and also the AGM of the Village Hall on 13 May 2013

The Chairman introduced the new local police officers, PC Dixon and PC Gibbs who are based in Peterfield

Sue Zirps asked if the 'parish tidy up' morning on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May would include Frogmore. The Chairman advised that although endorsed by the Parish Council, it was a Parochial Church Council driven initiative and the suggestion should be progressed through the organisers (PCC).

Margaret Williams encouraged those present to volunteer as Editors for the Meon Matters.

**8. Forum  
Planning**

Sue Zirps enquired as to the situation with the planning application for the Forge. The Chairman advised that it had been considered by the PC and had been objected to mainly on grounds of scale and the application had subsequently been withdrawn by the applicant. No further information at present.

## Highways

John Whitear raised concern over the current state of the roads in the parish and the impact on damage to car wheels. He also highlighted the following issues, although most have already been reported, Councillor John West would continue to pursue:

- The kerb has been broken by the drain on the left hand side as you come past the village hall in Workhouse Lane
- The drain is blocked on the Privett Road on the left hand side as you approach the East Meon Road.
- The ditch in Workhouse Lane is collapsing as a result of traffic using it when Church Road was closed.
- There is road subsidence between the Sewage Works and Drayton Mill.
- There are broken railings on Coombe Road outside Garston Farm House and also on the Clanfield Road by Bunny Pond which has been reported for some years now.

The Chairman and Councillor for roads said that these issues have been reported and were being dealt with by County on a priority basis when budget allowed. The Chairman reminded the meeting of the recent very effective road improvement works in the village and encouraged members of the public to also report any issues direct via the Hampshire County Council website.

Thelma Hoare raised concern over the dangerous corner at the top of Church Street before Coombe Road. John MacKinlay raised concern regarding the possibility of unwanted and unnecessary additional street lighting. Councillors advised that as far as they were aware the only improvements were to replace existing lights over the next 18 months.

## 9. Neighbourhood Plan (East Meon – Past, Present and Future)

Michael Blakstad provided an interesting insight into the history of the Parish and the Village, reminding the audience of the importance of preserving the parish heritage and surrounding landscape. Andrew Triggs from the SDNP spoke on the likely benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan which had been developed as a result of the Localism Act. A Plan he said would give East Meon more say on type and location of any build and unlike the Parish Plan would have a legal standing and become statutory once adopted by EHDC and the SDNP. He outlined the process by which a Plan could be developed, including a full parish consultation, culminating in a referendum. Brian Biggs outlined progress to date by a subcommittee of the PC and their meetings which had involved the SDNP. He advised that the Plan would require the support and wide involvement of parish residents - encompassing the production of landscape charter assessments and conservation area charter assessments. The likely time line he advised would be completion by June 2014 and referendum September 2014. The floor was invited to ask questions and David Pritchard raised concerns over any imminent developments. Dominic Carney asked wherever it was legal to drill for Oil or Gas in the National Park which was referred to the SDNP website for the most recent information.

In closing the Neighbourhood Plan session, the Chairman asked for a show of hands to either endorse (or indeed disagree) with proceeding with a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. No disagreement was voiced and the assembly overwhelming approved. The Chairman invited those present to complete a slip showing willingness to participate in the development of the Plan.

Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake proposed a vote of thanks to all councillors for their work on the neighbourhood plan and for a very informative meeting. The meeting finished at 8.21 p.m.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....