

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY for East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m on Wednesday 20 April 2011

Present: The Parish Councillors: Councillor David Parkinson, 62 Parishioners, Sarah Cowrick (Clerk), Alan Redpath (Chairman) and Mrs M Harland – guest speaker.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from: Cllr John West, Annie Bone, Mr & Mrs Joe Selby, Canon Terry Loudon, Mr & Mrs J McKinley, Mr & Mrs R Patrick, Mr Frank Moffat and Mr Tony Williams.
2. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (28 April 2010) had previously been circulated. The Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record having been proposed by Michael Atkinson and seconded by Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake.
3. **Chairman's Report** had been previously circulated. Alan Redpath outlined the progress made by the PC during the year and 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 2011. The Chairman outlined the main areas of expenditure and explained why the 2011 Precept was increased to allow for a possible contested election which would cost £2200. Alan Redpath reported that all costs had been reviewed and savings made where possible, resulting in the accounts being within budget, which was a notable achievement by the parish clerk. However the coming year would be tight and some pragmatic choices would have to be made on expenditure. The Accounts were proposed by Roy Ward and seconded by David Cooke.

5. **Other Reports**

Councillor David Parkinson addressed the meeting and updated those present on changes within EHDC and encouraged people to vote in the AV referendum on May 5th. He reported that funds were also stretched for the District Council and that reserves had been drawn upon to cover costs this year. Cllr Parkinson informed the meeting that he was lobbying for an independent body to oversee spending by the National Park. Another issue which he was campaigning for was the problem of illegal encampments and how to deal with them more effectively.

Query was raised about contingency plans in place with regard to the potential parking problems in the National Park. Cllr Parkinson said that this issue had not been addressed yet.

6. **Parish Forum – Questions from the Floor:**

(i) Anti Social Behaviour

Mr Eames and Mr Sanderson expressed their concern and frustration regarding considerable anti social behaviour which was impacting upon their family's life and although they had reported it to the various agencies, (social housing association and the police) they did not feel any action was being taken despite providing evidence. Alan Redpath expressed his view that he his experience the Police generally been very proactive in this regard. He went on to suggest and offer a meeting to discuss the problem, ascertain the facts and assist where possible.

(ii) Parking Glenthorne Meadow

Thelma Hoare raised concern about parking congestion in Glenthorne Meadow which at times was such an issue that the ambulance which was frequently required to gain access to a patient living in Glenthorne Meadow was unable to get through. Mrs Hoare suggested that some signs be erected at the entrance to stop people using it. Alan Redpath reminded those present that the PC were not able to erect no parking signs as this was the remit of the HCC Highways Agency. Cllr West was not present so could not comment but it would be researched.

(iii) Seat in allotment area

Susan Hull raised the issue of the broken seat in the Allotment area. George Atkinson commented that he had been fixed once before but vandalised again but there were plans in hand to replace it with a non destructible type bench.

- (iv) Telephone Box
Susan Hull raised issue of the state of the village telephone box which Alan Redpath said he would put on the agenda for the next PC meeting.
- (v) Road at Bunny Pond
John Whitear raised concern with reference to the railings at Bunny Pond and was supported by Michael Atkinson who commented that this matter had been raised many times before. Cllr George Atkinson commented that despite having been reported to the Highways Agency, resources were tight and it was a question of them working through their priorities
- (vi) Bridge at Garston
John Whitear raised the issue of the broken bridge at Garston. AR said the Highways had been informed and this was one of many issues on a list which would eventually be dealt with by HCC when funding allowed.
- (vii) Almshouses – Maintenance of road
This ongoing issue was raised and again Alan Redpath said that it was being dealt with.
- (viii) Litter at Gravel Pit
Michael Atkinson raised his concern regarding tipping of rubbish in the lay-by on road to Clanfield which George Atkinson confirmed was in hand.
- (ix) Parking arrangements for National Park
Michael Atkinson raised his concern regarding parking issues at Leydene and with the National Park now in situ he felt would become much worse. He reported numerous cars using farm gateways to park and then walk on the Downs. He suggested creating a car park at the Leydene site on the lower side of the new development. Cllr Parkinson advised that it was now too late to go back to the developer who would have to seek permission from EHDC. It would also go against the agreed policy of returning some part of the site to downland. Discussion ensued on who had authority over parked cars and Alan Redpath suggested that an approach to the Sustainability Centre may be one area to be explored to resolve the issue.
- (x) East Meon Cricket Club
Mr Bill T-Drake took the opportunity to thank the parish council for their support all those involved in fund raising to build the new Pavilion, and also to those who kindly gifted money. A special thanks also to the Parish Clerk for her assistance in handling the finance matters.
- (xi) Footpath Number 24
Mrs Jean Cooke raised concern over a notice to close Footpath Number 24. Alan Redpath and George Atkinson were able to inform her that it was not an HCC notice and carried no legal status. Rather it was related to a neighbour dispute on footpath boundaries. It was in the hands of the HCC and would hopefully be resolved in the near future. Meantime the footpath was not closed.
- (xii) River Bed
Mr Wilson Atkinson wished to thank the 8/9 children who he spotted tidying up the river bed between The George and the Isaac Walton.
- (xiii) Parish Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Community
Presentation of 2011 awards to Michael Blakstad and Sasha Brooks and also a presentation to Rosemary Ryder for her contribution of 20 years as a Parish Councillor,

The meeting finished at 8 p.m.

Signed: Dated: