

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY for East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall,
At 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 18 April 2012**

Present: The Parish Councillors: Councillor David Parkinson, Councillor John West, 54 Parishioners, Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk), Alan Redpath (Chairman).

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from: Annie Bone, Canon Terry Louden, Trevor Green, Mr & Mrs M Atkinson and Mrs Jean Cooke.
2. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (20 April 2011) had been circulated, and were signed as a true and accurate record having been proposed by Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by John Whitear.
3. **Chairman's Report** was given verbally 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 2012 and the Chairman outlined the major differences between actual and budget and explained that the overspend was primarily attributable to two items of unexpected expenditure - the significant water leaks in the Pavilion and the resurfacing required on the entrance drive to Frogmore Car Park. A query was raised regarding the office expense overspend of £400 which the Chairman explained was due to the extra workload with the building and finances for the new cricket pavilion. The Chairman reminded those present that previous sources of public grants had dried up and finances were tight but with non recurring expenses, he was confident of achieving a balanced budget for the 2012/13 year. The Accounts were proposed by Frank Moffat and seconded by Michael Atkinson.

5. District and County Council Reports

Councillor David Parkinson addressed the meeting and updated those present on changes within EHDC and in particular stated that the finances were in good shape due to prudent cost sharing initiatives that took place with Havant some 3 years ago, however due to the significant government cuts the Council Tax could not be frozen. He also informed the meeting about the new Planning Committee of 12 and that it was working well. Councillor Ken Moon was the newly elected Leader of EHDC. **Councillor John West** also addressed the meeting and advised of the significant reduction in staff at HCC but that these had not adversely affected front line services. He noted disappointment that the refurbishment of the road in High Street had to be split over 2 years, again due to budget constraints. A parishioner queried the work ethics of some county council workers from observing recent road repairs within the village.

6. **Parish Awards:** Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake made presentations to Diana Chadwick, Libby Swayne and Wilson Atkinson for outstanding contributions to the Community.

7. Updating the 2005 Parish Plan

The Chairman presented the finding of the initial feedback & suggestions from the recent parish survey, followed by a presentation of the first draft of the 2012 updated parish plan. Those present were invited to comment and ask questions as all currently identified topics were presented with some recommendations. (The results of the survey were produced in Meon Matters and are available on the website and are therefore not documented in detail here). The main areas of discussion were on the following subjects: Communications, Employment, Environment, River Meon, Healthcare, Housing, Policing, Public Transport, Traffic & Roads and Village Shop & Post Office. Comments were made in the following areas:

River

Nigel Brooks gave a presentation on the works being undertaken to study and preserve the free flow of water in the river. This initiative is supported by the SDNP. The issue with the drainage channel exists due to the floods of 1952 which did a lot of damage and the base was dug down to avoid it happening again. A survey and a computer study of the river is being undertaken to demonstrate that there will be no flood risk. Once this is down, a plan will be developed and approved for action.

Planning

Councillor David Parkinson gave an overview on the current National Planning Policy Framework and the requirement for a Parish Plan to be in place. He also highlighted the new Neighbourhood Plan. He also outlined the new Community Infrastructure Levy which takes the place of the old Developers Contributions and that for parishes to apply for money from new developments it was advisable to have a Parish and Neighbourhood Plan. Concern was raised from the floor regarding potential new developments sites in the village. Councillor David Parkinson said he was not aware of any.

Affordable Housing

Councillor Parkinson also touched on Affordable Housing and the criteria for tenants, one of which, local connection, he felt was too low down the list of priorities. Meetings are ongoing with the affordable housing institutions.

The Church

A resident raised a question over how best the Church could fit into the plan and parish life

Highways

It was suggested that a 40mph restriction be placed in front of the 30mph restriction on the Clanfield Road which seemed to work well in other villages rather than going from unstrstricted to 30mph.

West Meon

Collaboration on recreation/leisure activities with West Meon was suggested. The chair explained that contacts with WMPC were good and that this had previously been explored but West Meon largely faced the same challenges as East Meon, and there were no obvious areas that would yield benefit to both communities.

Pre-School

Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake, reported that because of increasing numbers there is now a need to reclaim the fourth classroom from the pre-school. The pre-school is a vital organisation within the village and is hoping to extend its services to include some 'wrap around' care. A new location has to be found and it is very much hoped that the Village Hall will be able to support this.

Communication – Meon Matters and new Parish Web Site

Brian Biggs advised that the request for contributions to the Meon Matters was such a success that for the short to medium term the publication was in very good financial shape. He encouraged volunteers to come forward to write an article and also to join the editorial committee. He also gave an overview of the purpose and functionality of the new website

Village Jubilee Party – 7th June

Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake also encouraged those present to participate in the Jubilee celebrations.

In closing the Parish Plan update session, the Chairman asked for a show of hands to either endorse (or indeed disagree) with the present status/content of the plan. No disagreement was voiced and the assembly overwhelming approved. The Chairman invited everyone to the drop-in morning where further comments would be welcome. It was hoped that the Plan would be finalised by 30 May 2012.

Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake proposed a vote of thanks to all councillors for their work on behalf of the parish for the past year. The meeting finished at 9.11 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT