

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY for East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall,
At 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 23 April 2014**

Present: The Parish Councillors including Alan Redpath (Chairman), County Councillor Ken Moon, retiring District councillor David Parkinson, 53 Parishioners and Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from: Councillor Chris Pamplin, Michael Blakstad, John Croft and Jean Cooke.
2. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (24 April 2013) had been circulated, and were signed as a true and accurate record having been proposed by William Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by John Whitear.
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. The reported was proposed to be adopted by Sasha Brooks and seconded by Frank Moffat.
4. **Financial Report**
Parishioners were given a copy of the unaudited accounts for year to 31 March 2014 and the Chairman outlined the major differences between actual and budget which cumulated in £645 improvement on budget even with capital items included. The budget for 2014/2015 was once again challenging but achievable under current constraints. The 2013/14 Accounts were proposed by David Pritchard and seconded by David Cooke.
5. **District and County Council Reports**
The Chairman invited David Parkinson to introduce Councillor Ken Moon (the new County Councillor) who gave a brief overview of HCC's operations and current priorities for the coming year. As the retiring district councillor, David Parkinson also provided a review/preview of EHDC's operations. The chairman passed a vote of thanks to David Parkinson thanking him for the unstinting support and invaluable counsel that he had given to East Meon over the past seven years.
6. **Parish Awards:** Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake made presentations of East Meon Parish plaques to Michael Atkinson and Jean Cooke for 'Outstanding contributions to the Community'.
7. **Notices**
The Chairman introduced and welcomed the new Vicar, the Rev Jane Ball and her husband Jonathan to the meeting and to the parish.
8. **The River Meon Improvement Project**
The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Andy Thomas from the Wild Trout Association who gave a presentation on the project, commencing June 2014, to enhance the River Meon, and its ecology, through the centre of the Village. Cllr George Atkinson gave vote of thanks.
9. **Neighbourhood Plan Update**
Councillor Brian Biggs provided an update on the activities and stages of the Plan which had already involved quite a few parish residents over the past 12 months. In addition to very well attended January pop-in session in the Village Hall, he also gave an overview of the results of the NP Questionnaire (distributed to all households) which asked for residents' preferences on valued landscapes, open spaces, numbers and locations of potential new builds and design. This initial feedback would be used in providing further focus and progress to the Plan for final adoption in June 2015.

10. Open Forum Questions

Linesman: Susan Hull suggested that the Parish Council researched the possibility of sharing a Linesman with neighbouring villages to share the maintenance duties and general jobs around the village. The Chairman advised that this had been considered before but affordability and budgetary constraints were the main reason for not proceeding with it, however it would be raised at the next PC meeting.

Highways John Whitear reminded those present that some of the road repair issues he raised at last year's Assembly were still outstanding. Although these had been reported to HCC Roads along with many other maintenance issues, HCC's resources & financial constraints were stretched across the county. However it should be recognised that East Meon had done quite well with regard to some major road resurfacing improvements particularly with the difficult weather last year but that there were always new issues to be addressed. The Chairman also commented that although the parish council seemingly had *responsibility* for everything, they actually had *authority* over very little, but assured those present that the PC was always very active in lobbying the relevant public bodies. He further encouraged residents to report highway issues via the HCC Roads web site, as this could sometimes be very effective in supporting the parish council lobbying.

Drainage Marion Nash raised the outstanding drainage report which had been undertaken by the late Councillor John West with regard to the ongoing drainage problems experienced by residents in Chapel Lane. The Chairman advised that the parish council had sympathy with these long standing issues and would ask HCC about the progress of this report. Mrs Betty Bussell asked whether the proposed river improvements in the centre of the village would have a detrimental effect on the drainage issues. She was assured that it wouldn't as a comprehensive risk assessment had already been undertaken with the Environment Agency. Other concerns were raised around the issue of overall drainage in the village. Alastair Dudley-Williams suggested that the pipes were inadequate and Nick Walberton raised concern about flooding in Workhouse Lane. The Chairman advised that the parish council were currently undertaking a review of these problems and were requesting a meeting with Southern Water who were the responsible body for drainage.

Power Cuts Carol Patrick raised concern over the number of interruptions to power supply over the winter and the effect it had on those elderly people in the village who were not able to use alternative power facilities. The Chairman advised that he was not aware of many cuts and that the parish had fared much better than many other communities over the recent widespread and prolonged power cuts due to extreme weather conditions. He also felt that this was perhaps an issue best handled by the Care Group and good neighbours.

Speeding Neil Croft thanked the parish council for their efforts in achieving some traffic calming measures in Work House Lane. The Chairman commented that traffic & speeding would be the continuous number one issue for all villages, including East Meon

On closing the Chairman reminded the meeting that this was the last year of the current 4 year term for the elected Parish Council and encouraged those interested in standing to discuss it with him or any of the Councillors.

Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake proposed a vote of thanks to all councillors for their work. The meeting finished at 8.45 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: