



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY for East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall,
At 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 27 April 2016**

Present: The Parish Councillors including Alan Redpath (Chairman), County Councillor Ken Moon, District Councillor Robert Mocatta, 73 Parishioners, Guest speaker Margaret Paren, SDNP, Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for Absence** were received from: George Atkinson, Frank & Belinda Moffat, Tony Perkins, Denys & Rosemary Ryder, Helen Shenton, John Whittear, Glynn and Sue Williams.
- 2. Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (29 April 2015) had been circulated, and were signed as a true and accurate record having been proposed by A Dudley-Williams and seconded by John Croft.
- 3. Chairman's Report** had been previously circulated in Meon Matters and highlighted the Parish Councils' operations and issues addressed over the past year. He thanked those Councillors who served in the last term of office and introduced the new Councillors who were elected in May 2015. The report was proposed to be adopted by William Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by John Croft.
- 4. Financial Report**
Parishioners were given a copy of the unaudited accounts for year to 31 March 2016 and the Clerk presented the significant expenditures from the accounts advising that the predicted budget was achieved with a £302.42 surplus. The Clerk advised that grass cutting was an increasing cost which exceeded that of the previous year, she also explained the make-up of the monies in reserve and those monies being held in the form of grants to be utilised. The Clerk then went on to explain the budget for 2016/17 with a 3% precept increase was still challenging. The Accounts were proposed by David Pritchard and seconded by David Cooke.
- 5. District and County Council Reports and Guest Speaker**
Councillor Ken Moon gave a brief overview of HCC's operations and current priorities for the coming year, the full report is available on the website. Councillor Robert Mocatta outlined his activities for the year and then introduced the guest speaker
- 6. Guest Speaker** : Margaret Paren, OBE, Chair of the South Downs National Park.
Ms Paren spoke about the future vision of the Park and the information that is available on the SDNP website. Issues of note related to the fact that the South Downs National Park is the 8th largest planning authority in the UK and the largest rural authority. Ms Paren covered areas relating to the improvement of chalk asset, producing quality food in the Park working in partnership with the growers and consumers, the merits of volunteering, protection of water courses, Rights of Way issues, planning in general particularly with reference to encouraging farmers to produce whole farm estate plans which may allow flexibility in planning. Members of the public enquired about the role of planning, stiles and possible grants towards repair. All present agreed that the insight into the work of the Park by Ms Paren had been most enlightening and thanked her for attending.
- 7. Parish Awards:** Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake made presentations of East Meon Parish plaques to Pam Thorne and Joe Selby for 'Outstanding contributions to the East Meon Community'.

8. Parish Forum Questions

Pathway across Village Green : The Parish Council in conjunction with the Village Hall agreed to look into the possibility of widening the path across the Green to allow better disabled access.

Highways : Several references were made to various highway issues and the frustration regarding the method of repair which often did not last. Members of the public advised of ongoing potholes in various areas and were encouraged to report these to HCC and the Councillor responsible for roads. In addition, Councillor Moon advised that there was now an APP available "Fix my street" to allow reporting in that format. Marc Atkinson advised that this would be made available on the East Meon website.

Concern was raised regarding the weak bridge in Workhouse Lane and the use by HGV's due to satellite navigation units directing them into Workhouse Lane.

Cycling Events : The assembly expressed concern at the increasing number of cycling events routed through the village. Ms Paron confirmed that mass commercial cycling events were a growing cause of disquiet in the park particularly when signage was not removed. She reported that in the new forest local residents had staged protests and stated that the situation had to be monitored closely to strike a reasonable balance between cyclists and residents.

Signage : Issues relating to the signage for events were discussed. The May Country Fair signs had disappeared in some areas and it was noted that this had happened for previous events with no explanation. Discussion ensued on the location of signs and the propriety of commercial companies being allowed to advertise events when their company took about 2/3rds of the sign and the event was advertised in a small way underneath.

Green Lanes : The disrepair of Fiveways was raised and the Chairman advised that a residents' programme of some remedial works was planned with the help of grant monies already being held by the parish council.

In closing, Councillor Davenport called a motion of thanks for Alan Redpath for his continued work as chair of the parish council and his even handedness in dealing with issues. The meeting finished at 8.35 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: