

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Church Hall on Thursday 30 January 2014**

Present: Alan Redpath, (Chairman), George Atkinson, Brian Biggs, Annie Bone, Anella Parker-Martin, Chris Pamplin (until 11.26), Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake, Councillor David Parkinson (until 9.30), Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk) Observers: John MacKinlay (EM resident), Paul Ferguson (Petersfield Herald)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received and accepted as valid from Joe Selby and Chris Warren.

2. DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

PTD reference current planning application at Cedar Valley.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING held on 22 November 2013 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

4. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

(a) County: A minutes silence in memory of Cllr John West was held and his considerable contribution to the parish was acknowledged.

(b) District Councillors Report as follows: Councillor Parkinson updated the meeting on progress of the Joint Core Strategy and the Local Plan. He advised that this would be his last meeting as Councillor and his successor will be confirmed shortly. He was thanked by all those present for his many invaluable contributions to East Meon Parish during his 7 years as District Councillor.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.

(a) Grass Cutting

Quotes were considered for the grass cutting 2014/2015 contract which was awarded to Marc Atkinson at the submitted quote figure. It was agreed to ensure that any extra costs in relation to the Recreation Ground would be covered by the Cricket Club as before.

(b) Council rights of way - cutting

It was agreed that BB and GA would undertake the requirement for the parish council to highlight any hedges or trees that need cutting back and request the assistance of the land owners to remedy. **BB/GA**

(c) Flooding issues

Although the River Meon has coped well with the recent and sustained rainfall, the run-off from higher land, and the saturated ground at lower levels, has caused drainage and sewage problems in some areas of the village. Discussion ensued on the current issues, including the lane flooding in Frogmore as a result of the high level of run-off rainfall (albeit no property was inundated). This has been a long running problem for residents, generating several reports which identified extensive and prohibitively expensive drainage systems to channel the high volume of rain water run-off from higher ground.

GA advised that he had also undertaken a site visit to Chapel Lane at the height of the rainfall and run-off from land to the south. He suggested that there could possibly be a solution in improving the main drain that runs down the centre of the Lane.

Drainage in and around the Cross and Workhouse Lane areas was also discussed and AR invited a concerned resident (John MacKinlay) to speak on the subject.

John MacKinlay outlined the concerns of some of the most affected villagers with regard to drainage in the centre of the village. He advised that some residents had been affected by the recent conditions with cellars, houses and gardens being flooded due to inadequate and antiquated drainage systems. He explained why in his opinion the current drainage and sewage system is not fit for purpose. He suggested that the increase in population, new build and general change in weather patterns has contributed to the system not being able to cope with the level of runoff water. He felt that public tolerance was now at an all time low, particularly with regard to sewage overflow and the potential for river/water pollution.

Various other issues were highlighted referencing the mechanism for the management of water and the outcome of previous reports that had identified isolated symptoms but didn't address the cause within a bigger picture.

The outcome of the very useful discussion (led by a well-articulated presentation) was that the Parish Councillors supported funding a professional report which would identify the holistic problem and remedial action plans. GA with JM would prepare a proposal for PC consideration/approval and a project team leader would then be identified. **GA**

(d) Village Play Area

PTD presented quotes to improve and or re build a play area adjacent to the Village Hall. Discussion ensued as to the feasibility of moving the equipment and the likely impact on the environment. It was agreed to source funding to renovate the current village hall play area. SC advised that she had received confirmation that there would be staged payment of grant monies available from the Leydene development to the total of £4820. Discussion ensued as to whether the PC should in addition fund a new build for older children /adults in the form of an Outdoor Gym and various sites were discussed. It was agreed that **BB, AR, PTD and APM** would undertake a site visit to consider all the options and then re-visit the issue with quotes at the next meeting.

PTD

(e) 1914 Commemorations

Although the PC had recently organised a complete refurbishment of the Village War Memorial, it was unanimously decided not to lead any commemorations at present. However support could be given to other initiatives such as the Historical Society providing exhibits of interests regarding the war. The annual November Memorial Sunday could also provide a fitting reminder of 1914.

(f) Parish Plan

AR highlighted the current progress under the action headings. There were no further action points at the present time. AR did however report that the issue regarding school traffic measures had progressed and a meeting was planned. AB highlighted her observation that there were more HGV's using the High Street. Policing issues were raised and AR reminded those present to again advise people to contact the 101 Police incident number which records all reported incidences and alerts community officers to any issues. This has already been well publicised throughout the village,

6. Neighbourhood Plan

It was generally agreed that the initial feedback and attendance from the *Neighbourhood Plan Drop In day* was most encouraging. The NP teams and displays were commented upon for their professionalism and willingness to discuss and answer many questions. BB advised that the sub groups would be meeting to collate feedback which then would be presented to the steering group to determine 'next steps'. The broader questionnaire will be available in the February edition of Meon Matters, with additional copies in the village shop. The steering group would then meet again to consider the results of the questionnaire.

7. Planning

The Planning Chairman reported on applications since the last meeting which were all non contentious. He also reported on an issue regarding a potential planning issue concerning a caravan in Frogmore.

Councillors were reminded that all planning application details are available on the website.

AR reported on progress regarding building works to the cottages destroyed by fire in the High Street last Easter. It was understood that there would be an application forthcoming to separate the alleyway between the cottages.

GA agreed to read the water meter at the allotment site.

AR reported on his organising a requested mediation meeting between the owners and the East Meon Forge and Cricket Ground Preservation Society. The application is not scheduled for EHDC committee until mid-March.

8. Other Parish Matters

(a) Sub Committee Reports

SC advised non payment of fees for Car parking Licence at Frogmore which would be chased. Councillors agreed that in future licences should be revoked if not paid by 1 Jan, with a £25 reinstatement charge to cover the additional administration

(b) Cyclists (JS report via AR) JS has been talking to UK Cycling who confirms that before the start of each event all riders are briefed to 'be considerate to other road users and pedestrians'. In future this will be given more emphasis. He has also negotiated that they will use Workhouse Lane as a one way system and, more importantly, they will put a marshal at the village end to ensure cyclist use it in a reasonable manner. He also told UK Cycling that we will keep matters under review.

(c) Annual Parish Assembly and nominations for Parish Award

Suggestions were discussed and 2 nominees were agreed. Wild Trout Trust Speaker and format agreed at the last meeting.

9. FINANCE

(a) Current Report

The Clerk gave an overview of the current financial situation and the likely outcome of the budget being met.

(b) Precept 2014/2015

As agreed at the last meeting the Precept for 2014/2015 would be £ 23690
(Twenty three thousand six hundred and ninety pounds)

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- APM highlighted the need for the Kews Meadow Pavilion to be painted.
- APM advised of the success of the Seniors visit to the Petersfield Pantomime followed by tea at the Langrish House Hotel.
- PTD advised the date of the Music Festival at Bereleigh on 12 July in aid of the school classroom fund
- GA highlighted the funding plight of the Rosemary Foundation
- Dates for the next meeting as previously agreed: 15 May 2014, Thursday 11 September 2014, and Thursday 20 November 2014. Annual Parish Assembly 23 April 2014.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 11.55am

Signed:

Date