



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Held at East Meon Church Hall on Monday 20 February 2017 at 1900**

Present: Cllr Richard Bartlett, Cllr Dominic Carney, Cllr David Cooke, Cllr Susan Davenport and Cllr Chris Pamplin and from approx. 19.10 Cllr Steven Ridgeon was invited to join the meeting.

In attendance were Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk), District Councillor Robert Mocatta and 6 members of the public.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Cllr Sharon Silence. Cllr Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake and Cllr Ken Moon.

**2 DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest**

None declared.

**3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017: Cllr Davenport requested a small amendment to the Item regarding Workhouse Lane Car Park. Amendment as follows: *"Cllr Davenport went on to say that the Bereleigh Estate had subsequently generously offered to rent the car park (~~to the parish council~~) at a peppercorn rent (£1) on the understanding that (~~they~~) it would not be responsible for the upkeep/maintenance or insurance."*

The minutes (including the above amendment) were approved, proposed by MA and seconded by RB.

**4. CO-OPTING COUNCILLOR TO FILL VACANT POSITION:**

The Clerk confirmed that procedure had been followed in advertising the casual vacancy and that EHDC had confirmed that the Council were at liberty to elect a qualifying Councillor of their choice.

Cllr Davenport asked for proposals and Cllr Carney proposed Steven Ridgeon and Chris Pamplin seconded the proposal. The Council were unanimous in agreeing that Steven Ridgeon should join the Council.

## 5 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

**(a) County:** Councillors had been previously circulated with Cllr Moon's report.

**(b) District Councillor:** Cllr Mocatta advised the Councillors present of the EHDC budget proposals to decrease Council Tax by 2.6% and plans to borrow considerable sums of money to purchase property. Cllr Carney questioned the high level of borrowing particularly as currently there was no borrowing. This sparked a debate on the need for borrowing. Cllr Mocatta explained that it was a change in policy and that the Council were taking the opportunity to invest in local projects, reinvesting in business of East Hampshire by putting money into property. He went on to say that the risk profile will have to meet the criteria and it will be discussed at a meeting on Thursday. He said he would keep Councillors informed but it was not likely that any comment from EMPC would be taken into account.

## 6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### **Play Equipment**

It was agreed to postpone this item until the next meeting when Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake would be in attendance.

### **Tree Survey**

Cllr Bartlett advised that the survey would take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February after which he would report back. **RB**

### **Grass Cutting Proposal**

Cllr Atkinson confirmed that a quote of £5500 based on visits between March and October. This was based on a maximum of 18 cuts including the Football Pitch, Grounds around the tennis court, cricket outfield and around the play areas on the Recreation Ground and the strimming of the gateways in the village. If East Meon Cricket Club wanted to make further cuts to the Recreation Ground out field, they would do so at their own expense. A second quote was obtained but the EMPC contract was too small for them to quote at a sensible price. Therefore, it was agreed to accept the quote from QLS at £5,500 for the season and the Clerk confirmed that this was within budget.

MA would continue to pursue the suggestion of owning a mower in conjunction with Petersfield Rugby Club and EMCC and produce a proposal for the next meeting. **MA**

**Highway Project (Quiet Lanes)**

Cllr Carney advised that there was no progress to report on this since the last meeting. **DCa**

**Stile Project**

Cllr Carney advised that there was no progress to report on this since the last meeting. **DCa**

**Five-Ways Restoration**

Cllr Carney reported that there was an issue with the scalping but he was pursuing the project. **DCa**

**Signage**

Cllr Atkinson advised that the notice boards although galvanised were in bad repair and rusting from the top down inside and out. Two quotes had been obtained for the refurbishing of the Notice Boards and the Village signs but on further discussion it was agreed that the replacement of the Notice Boards and the Village signs should be considered rather than refurbishment. MA would pursue both options and report back to the next meeting with quotes. It was agreed that although this work is required it was not urgent. **MA**

**River**

Cllr Davenport advised that the joint project with the Wild Trout Trust to enhance the river is entering its final phase. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of some publicity to illustrate the support that the Parish Council has given this project. **SD**

**7. PARISH MATTERS****a) Reports from Councillors areas of responsibilities.****Planning Committee**

Cllr Davenport advised that she would stand down from the Planning Committee and proposed that Cllr Ridgeon joins Cllr Bartlett and Cllr Cooke. It was unanimously agreed.

**Overall responsibilities amendments:**

Cllr Davenport would withdraw from the Kews Meadow Sports facilities responsibility and Cllr Ridgeon would take this on. She would however remain the School liaison Councillor.

Cllr Bartlett would stand down from the Footpaths/Highways/Hedges area and Cllr Carney agreed to be solely responsible for this.

### **Website**

Cllr Atkinson advised that the site is co-owned by Chris Moor and they confirmed their willingness to continue the current arrangement which works well for the Parish Council. It was agreed that it would be good to expand the facility to encourage groups in the village to use it which would facilitate communication. The Chairman allowed Denys Ryder to circulate a proposal on a new concept of a “Meon Diary” for Councillors consideration.

### **Workhouse Lane Car Park**

Cllr Davenport advised that this was on-going and she was yet to hear from EHDC that they are willing to take on the Lease kindly offered by The Bereleigh Estate.

**SD**

### **Frogmore Car Park:**

Cllr Pamplin would make enquiries as to whether the residents who held a Licence to use the Car Park felt that work was needed on the approach to the car park. It was noted that the Licence allowed for any maintenance costs to be charged to the residents.

**CP**

### **Recreation Ground**

Cllr Atkinson advised that he had obtained a competitive quote for the gate on the Recreation Ground for under £150 and he would pursue the action of this outstanding issue.

**MA**

**8.**

## **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Cllr Davenport confirmed that Dan Oakley was able to speak at the Assembly.

## **PLANNING**

- **East Meon Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Cllr Ridgeon confirmed that the Consultation for the East Meon Neighbourhood Development plan commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> January and was due to finish on 20<sup>th</sup> March and there was no update as yet and none was expected until after the 20<sup>th</sup> March.

- **Planning Update**

Cllr Bartlett advised that since the last planning meeting report at the EMPC meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 there have been two applications which EMPC had no objection to.

There are three applications outstanding and these will be considered by the due date and reported on at the next meeting.

**9. OPEN FORUM**

Susan Hull advised that the Recreation Ground hedge needs cutting. Cllr Carney **DCa** would ask George Atkinson if he could cut it.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE OF NOTE**

The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the Annual Charity Commission Return.

Cllr Davenport advised that she had spoken to the Chairman of the Village Hall regarding the hiring out of the Hall on UK Cycling Event days who had confirmed that it was not their policy to rent it to this group (or any similar group) that may cause issues in the village.

**Dates of Next Meetings were agreed and would be published**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 AGM

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018

The Chairman then requested support from her fellow Councillors to take the next part of the meeting under a Closed Session and implement Article number:

2.4 : Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons.

There was unanimous support for this request and the members of the public duly left and the closed part of the meeting commenced.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 20.45

Signed : ..... Date : .....