



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Village Hall on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 7pm**

Present: Alan Redpath, (Chairman), Susan Davenport (Vice Chair), Richard Bartlett, Dominic Carney, David Cooke, Sharon Sillence, Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk) and District Councillor Robert Mocatta.

Two members of the public were present until 8.50pm and were invited to raise any questions or issues during the Open Forum.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors Marc Atkinson, Chris Pamplin and County Councillor Ken Moon.

2. DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest:

Cllr Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake advised that she would withdraw from any discussions on sites in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan having declared her family interest on a potential housing development option in the parish and in addition the planning application for Cedar Valley Camping Site.

Cllr. Barlett advised that given his close proximity to the Forge he would not participate in any discussion.

Cllr Robert Mocatta registered his interest in the SDNP planning committee in respect of the Forge application.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: held on 16 November 2015 had already been approved and posted.

4. District & HCC REPORTS

County Councillor: Cllr Ken Moon's report has been previously circulated and is available on the parish website.

District Councillor: Cllr Rob Mocatta gave a verbal report at the meeting, which included comments on his new role on the SDNP for Tourism. He circulated a very professional local visitor's brochure produced by Buriton P.C. which may be something that East Meon could consider, in addition to those available from East Meon Stores

CLlr Mocatta alerted those present to a recently published report by SNDP on Housing in the area including where the most expensive houses were based in the Park and advised that it made interesting reading. He also touched on the issue of devolution, which is expected to be debated over the coming months.

Discussion then ensued around the possible production of a promotional flier for East Meon and the ability for Cllr Mocatta to provide grant facilities for certain projects in the village. This facility would expire on 31st March and Councillors were encouraged to consider ways to utilise this.

PLANNING

5.

Cllrs Bartlett (Chair of Planning Committee), Davenport & Cooke

a) Review of current applications

SDNP/13/04878/FUL The Forge

Cllr Susan Davenport advised and Cllr Mocatta confirmed that the SNDP Planning Committee would be considering this application on site on 11th February.

Review of other applications reported by Cllr Richard Bartlett followed:

SDNP/15/05197/FUL : Land at Fish Pond Cottages

Application withdrawn

SDNP/15/05373/FUL : Colchenna

Ongoing application having modified the plans for outdoor lighting in the equestrian area.

SDNP/15/05469/FUL : Parsonage Barn

Withdrawn

SDNP/15/05630/LIS : Church Cottage

Listed building application withdrawn. Application for 3 bay garage on going.

SDNP/15/05303/LIS Wheelwrights Cottage, High Street, East Meon

Replacement windows – Listed – No Objection comment submitted

SDNP/16/00231/TCA All Saints Church, The Hyde, East Meon

Tree pruning – no objection comment submitted

SDNP/16/00229/TCA Farriers

Tree pruning – no objection comment submitted

SDNP/16/00230/TCA Holly Cottage High Street
Tree pruning – no objection comment submitted

SDNP/15/06031/FUL - The Old Forge, Bordean
Replacement dwelling and associated buildings - PC submitted no objection response but with comment regarding concern over light intrusion and SDNP 'Dark Skies'

Other Planning Issues

Cllr Bartlett advised that he had received a letter from the owners of Blackthorn Farm regarding their assurance that the barn, which has been erected in Frogmore, is purely for agricultural use. Furthermore it was understood that under the current ruling planning permission is not required

Concern was raised regarding the possibility of future building of barns which may detract from the landscape and valued views – with even a future potential for a planning right to convert to residential use.

Cllr Bartlett also advised of a pre application to amend the number and size of houses at Leydene, which would be considered when registered. It was suggested that consideration should be given to the Neighbourhood Plan in respect to the proposed change of number of houses and any opportunity for the village to benefit from CIL monies.

b) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Redpath reported on the continued excellent progress of the Plan and the considerable time and relentless effort given by those involved. Parishioners have been kept informed of progress via the website.

The Plan is currently on track for the consultation periods beginning in late Feb/early March with a view to a residents' referendum in May/June.

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES**

a) New Children's' Play Area

Cllr Susan Davenport reported that the Village Hall were not prepared to accept the proposal outlined at the last meeting which was instead of renewing the old Lease between the Village Hall and the Parish Council that the Parish Council gift the play ground facility to the Hall and agree to pay all costs relating to the upkeep, insurance and inspection but the liability will be with the Village Hall. This could negate the need for incurring further costs, which would be better channelled towards more tangible parish causes – as ultimately both the PC and the VH serve for the benefit of residents. The parish now have a substantial legal bill and will await further instruction from the Village Hall Committee to confirm when they were ready to proceed/complete.

While recognising the cooperation of the VH Cttee , nonetheless Councillors felt that this expensive and time consuming route could have been avoided with little or no real consequence resulting.

Cllr. Carney offered to take on the role of Village Hall liaison, which was unanimously accepted.

b) Notice Boards

Councillor Sillence advised that the remedial work would take place within two weeks and the painting when the weather improves.

7. **PARISH MATTERS**

a) Reports from Sub Committee Chairs

Footpath Stiles

Cllr Carney advised that further to the discussion at the last meeting he had found a map on the HCC website, which showed which stiles were in need of repair; Long discussion ensued regarding this and it was concluded that in the first instance a proper survey of stiles, which were in need of repair, should be produced. The cost of repairing them and the mechanism could then be discussed further. It was agreed that a personal approach to land owners was preferential and more effective than writing letters. Local Landowners had always been responsive when advised of needed repairs. **Action: DC**

Parking

Cllr Carney raised concern over inconsiderate parking causing congestion outside The George.

Roads

Discussion ensued on the repairs required on certain roads and the drainage issues, all of which had been previously reported and were awaiting attention. On behalf of Cllr Pamplin, Cllr Redpath raised the previously reported state of the road in Temple Lane, which had many potholes.

b) Land Ownership

Cllr Dominic Carney raised an issue on behalf of a resident concerning the ownership of the path that crosses the Green and liability. The Clerk confirmed that The Green including the path is owned by the Parish Council and (as with HCC owned public footpaths), is fully insured for public liability together with any other paths under parish ownership.

c) Five Ways Grant

Cllr Carney advised that he hoped that, weather permitting, progress would soon be made before the end of the financial year with regard to the Five Ways improvement project and use of the funding grant given in August 2014.

d) River Meon

As reported previously to Councillors, the previous restoration work on the River Meon (High St section) had been successful. Cllr Redpath reported that the Wild Trout Trust had now proposed to complete the restoration of the river on the upper section towards the Isaack Walton. All Councillors were supportive of the continued project and were advised that there was no cost to the parish as funds were also available from the SDNP.

8. OPEN FORUM

Denys Ryder commented on the conversation regarding stiles and advised that he would be pleased to repair any stiles that were on his land.

Rosemary Ryder raised concern regarding the deterioration of the lanes by use of scramble bikes. The Chairman advised that this was a long running issue and although there was a TPO in force prohibiting 4x4 vehicles, he recommended that concerned parishioners needed to gather information to build an evidence file (incl. 'photos of bike usage) if further action was to be considered.

FINANCE

9. a) Current Report and approval of payments to date: The Clerk reported on the *actual v budget* to date and highlighted any areas of concern. She advised of the current bank balance taking into account money held for the Neighbourhood Plan and the Five Ways restoration project, money expected and VAT owed. Each Councillor was provided with a full accounts report detailing the balances and movements of money. The Clerk advised that excluding the N plan and capital expense the budget was within £7 of that forecasted. It had however as predicted been a challenging year financially and was not over yet.

It was agreed to review the grass cutting costs with the Cricket Club and to review the charges for the sport facilities their use by the Clanfield Football Club.
Action: MA/AR

b) Setting of Precept for 16/17

Following discussion and recognition that many previous sources of EHDC/HCC public funding/grants which the parish had access to, were now no longer available. Therefore if the parish council were to continue with an acceptable level of parish maintenance (especially regular grass cutting), Councillors unanimously agreed to increase the precept for 16/17 by 3% to £25,132 (Twenty five thousand one hundred and thirty two pounds) – this equated to an average of an extra £1/p.a. per household.

10 DATES FOR NEXT MEETING

CLlr Redpath reminded Councillors of the dates set for the next meeting and advised that another meeting may be required prior to the Annual Parish Assembly.

Speakers for the Annual Parish Assembly were discussed with District CLlr Mocatta suggesting some possible keynote speakers and advise their availability. It was agreed to provide Cheese and Wine as in previous years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed:

Date :