



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Church Hall on Monday 23 January 2017 at 1900**

Present: Cllr Alan Redpath, Cllr Richard Bartlett, Cllr Dominic Carney, Cllr David Cooke, Cllr Susan Davenport, Cllr Chris Pamplin and Cllr Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake. (Cllr Redpath left at 1930)

In attendance were Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk), Bethan Jones (Assistant Clerk) District Councillor Robert Mocatta and 9 members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Cllr Marc Atkinson, Cllr Sharon Silence and Cllr Ken Moon.

2 DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

PTD declared her potential family interest in the leasing of Workhouse Lane Car Park.

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING held on 14 November 2016 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Cllr Redpath then advised the meeting that he was stepping down as Chairman and as a Councillor with immediate effect. The Clerk confirmed that she had already received his written intention of this and he had also informed his fellow Councillors. He thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their support during his 14-year term. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake thanked him on behalf of the village and presented him with a gift from the Parish Council which he gratefully received.

The meeting went on to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman. Cllr Davenport confirmed that she was willing to stand for Chairman and was proposed by Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by Cllr Pamplin. Cllr Bartlett confirmed his willingness to stand for Vice Chairman and was proposed by Cllr Carney and seconded by Cllr Cooke. Both Cllr Davenport and Cllr Bartlett were duly elected unanimously.

Cllr Davenport then took the Chair and proceeded to lead the meeting. She advised that she would take advice from the Clerk regarding a replacement Councillor and inform Councillors of the process in due course. Cllr Davenport also advised the meeting that she would be looking to Councillors to spread the workload of the Parish Council.

4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

(a) County: To be circulated.

(b) District Councillor: Cllr Mocatta advised the meeting about the proposed 1% increase in Council Tax and of the proposals for EHDC to invest in property. He also advised that plans were in the pipeline to improve sport facilities at the Taro.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5 Play Area Repairs

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake confirmed receipt of a grant from HCC of £1,000 to aid with play equipment repairs and renewals. She went on to say that Ken Woodhouse would be completing the repairs in the near future. Councillors were advised that this remedial work deals with any issues of concern relating to the ROSPA Inspection. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported that further improvements could be considered and Cllr Mocatta said he would be able to assist with funding for this. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake will liaise with him on this matter. Cllr Pamplin enquired about the gate to the Recreation Ground which it was understood had been referred to by Cllr Atkinson. It was agreed to ask Cllr Atkinson to report back at the next meeting on the matter.

PTD

MA

Tree Survey

Cllr Bartlett confirmed that the works to the Trees on Glenthorne Meadow were now complete. Discussion ensued as to where hedges needed trimming and it was agreed to encourage home owners to trim back hedges which obscured signs. Cllr Bartlett asked for a map of land for which the Parish Council is responsible and the Clerk said she would provide him with one, he could then check that all trees for which the Parish Council is liable are safe.

SC

RB

Grass Cutting Proposal

In Cllr Atkinson's absence, the Clerk reported that he had asked for a quote from the existing contractor and one other but had not received replies. He had also discussed the possibility of purchasing a mower and sharing with a local sports club. Cllr Mocatta said there were grants available for this sort of purchase from Sport England. Councillors felt a full proposal was required before taking this suggestion further. In view of the time scale, the Clerk reported that she had set the budget on the costs for the 2016 season. Cllr Atkinson would be asked to provide a proposal (written if necessary) for the next meeting.

MA

Bridge Workhouse Lane

Cllr Davenport advised that there were no further developments regarding this. However, the unsightly Southern Electric barrier was of concern and due to the lack of progress she said that we would be asking Cllr Moon to assist. All agreed.

SD

KM

Highway Project (Quiet Lanes)

Cllr Carney referred to his report from the last meeting regarding this matter and was currently compiling evidence required. Cllr Carney would pursue and report at the next meeting. **DCA**

Stiles

Cllr Carney was disappointed to report that it was not possible to widen Footpaths 24 and 25 at this time. He advised that the Stile project is still on-going. **DCA**

Five-Ways Restoration

Cllr Carney reported that it was hoped the scalping's would soon be in situ which would utilise the grant monies of £880 being held. **DCA**

Signage

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake advised that the West Meon and Clanfield village entrance posts have been painted. The Green signs need renovating, unfortunately the person that was employed to make them had now retired, Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake advised that she would try and find a new contractor and obtain quotes. **PTD**

6**PARISH MATTERS****Liaison**

Cllr Carney gave a briefing on potential plans of EHDC to devolve from Hampshire CC and merge with coastal boroughs and cities including Portsmouth, Havant and Portsmouth. DCA noted that Buriton had formally written to EHDC to object to this initiative. Cllr Carney reported that things were now quiet on this front but said he would keep a watching brief **DCA**

Allotments

Cllr Cooke advised that all was in order at the Allotments and that all had paid up by 31st December which was something of a record. He went on to advise that Plot No 22 at Workhouse Lane had given notice and he was hopeful to find a replacement. He will liaise with the Parish Office in this regard. **DCO**

River

Cllr Davenport reported that the Trout Restoration Trust had further work to complete in the early spring and she would ascertain a progress report from Alan Redpath. **SD**

Workhouse Lane Car Park

Cllr Davenport reported that after a meeting with EHDC it was clear that they were not funding car parks across the district and that even though the car park was well used by visitors to the area and by Clanfield Football Club, EHDC in the interests of consistency were not willing to renew the Lease. Cllr Davenport

explained that Cllr Mocatta had approached SDNP to see if they could help but had been advised that they were not willing to take on such a Lease.

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 would not be responsible for the upkeep/maintenance or insurance. Cllr Davenport was hoping that EHDC would take on the Lease and the responsibility but was not overly optimistic. Cllr Davenport will report back on progress at the next meeting. **SD**

Annual Parish Assembly

Cllr Davenport suggested a speaker from the South Downs on the Dark Skies initiative which was well received. It was suggested that a representative from the Clanfield Observatory be invited to attend. Cllr Mocatta would approach Mr Oakley of the SDNP and advise. Cllr Davenport asked Councillors to consider nominations for the Parish Award and advise the Clerk. **RM**

7

PLANNING

- **East Meon Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Cllr Davenport invited a member of the Steering Group, Steve Ridgeon to report on the status of East Meon's Neighbourhood Development Plan. Mr Ridgeon advised that the East Meon Neighbourhood Development Plan had been formally submitted to and accepted by the SDNP. This included the following 4 documents written by East Meon parish volunteers:

The East Meon Neighbourhood Development Plan Document

The East Meon Pattern Book - this objective assessment of the village character will inform the design solutions for future developments of all types so as to ensure that it is locally distinctive and recognisable as 'of East Meon'.

The Consultation Statement – this tells how the community has been involved in the development of the plan since 2013 and contains the feedback from our 'Regulation 14' consultation held last year.

The Basic Conditions Statement – this demonstrates how the plan meets guidance on sustainable development, National Planning Policy, local planning guidelines in force in our area and EU Regulations

Mr Ridgeon advised that the above documents totalled almost 200 pages. He went on to say that during the last 'Regulation 14' consultation in the summer of 2016, 53 written comments were received from residents, in addition to a number submitted by statutory bodies and by developers. Every single submission was read and discussed – the comments and the Neighbourhood Plan response can be seen in the Consultation Statement. As a result, over 40 changes were made to the NDP document. Mr Ridgeon commented that an example of this was that the "Glebe Strip" was added as a proposed Local Green Space.

The SDNPA consultation which is entirely managed by the SDNP is planned to start on Friday 27th January and will last for 6 weeks. All submitted documents will be available on the SDNPA website. Mr Ridgeon advised that the plan is to provide a link to the SDNPA website on the East Meon parish website. The NDP document will also be available in the Village Shop but for reference only – not to be taken away.

Cllr Davenport thanked Mr Ridgeon for his comprehensive report and invited questions from Councillors. Councillors joined Cllr Davenport in thanking the Neighbourhood Development Plan Team for their considerable efforts in this regard.

- **Planning Update**

Cllr Davenport invited Cllr Bartlett to report on Planning issues. Cllr Bartlett advised that since the last Parish Council Meeting there have been six applications. Cllr Bartlett advised that East Meon Parish Council had No Objection to these applications which included applications for work at The Forge and Giants Cottage.

One request was attached to application SDNP/16/05557/FUL for Coombeside (reference a single story extension) that glass roof panels be replaced with conventional roofing in accordance with the SDNP Dark Night Skies Policy SD9.

8

OPEN FORUM

Dr Gillies O'Bryan-Tear offered evidence to assist Cllr Carney with his road safety project. Dr O'Bryan-Tear advised that there was a serious accident outside his property on the Bereleigh Road some 6 years ago and that Cllr Marc Atkinson would recall this event.

There were no other comments or questions.

9

FINANCE

- **Accounts to Date**

The Payments and receipts for the year to date were approved. The Clerk presented the report in a new format and all agreed that this was a preferred method. The Clerk advised that all things being equal, it is likely for the year to 31st March 2017 there would be a small surplus. Income was better than expected due to the increased subscription for the use of the Football Pitch and Pavilion. Expenses were close to those predicted. Grass cutting as reported at the last meeting was over budget as were legal fees. However, savings had been made elsewhere. The Grant for the improvements to the play area had been netted off the cost. The Clerk informed Councillors of the balance of funds and the outstanding grants, VAT and the Neighbourhood Development Plan balance.

- **Budget 2017/18 and Precept**

The Clerk presented a budget based on a Precept increase of 3.5% on the current precept of £25,132 which equated to an £879.62 increase. Councillors considered carefully the suggested budgeted figures. Discussion ensued on the grass cutting which without a budget was difficult to predict. The Clerk advised that she had budgeted for the same cost as this year but hoped it could be reduced. The Clerk also pointed out that the income was based on the same subscriptions as the current year. Councillors approved the recommendation from the current and outgoing Chairman to increase the contract office fee for the Clerk from £500 to £1500 and this would reflect in an amended budget to be produced.

Discussion took place on the impact of 2% v 3% v 3.5% and it was finally agreed that in order to maintain the village to the standard expected then a 3.5% rise was necessary. The Precept was set at a rounded figure of £26,011 (Twenty-six thousand and eleven pounds only)

10 CORRESPONDENCE OF NOTE

Cllr Davenport asked if all Councillors had received correspondence details sent by the Clerk and they all confirmed they had. There were no comments.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Pamplin requested a site visit to the Frogmore Car Park which may need some attention.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20th February. 2017 in the Church Hall.

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

Signed : Date :