



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Held at East Meon Village Hall on Thursday 29 January 2015**

Present: Alan Redpath, (Chairman), Brian Biggs, Annie Bone, Chris Pamplin,  
Alastair Dudley-Williams, Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake (vice chair), District  
Councillor Richard Bartlett, Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk)

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from George Atkinson, Anella Parker-Martin, Joe Selby and Hampshire County Councillor Ken Moon.

**2 DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest**

PTD declared her potential family interest in a SHLAA site.

**3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** held on 20 November 2014 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

**4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**(a) County:** To be circulated.

**(b) District Councillor:** Councillor Bartlett reported on the successful grant application for the Play Area of £5,000. He made Councillors aware that one of the conditions was that the spend had to take place within 6 months although he said if required an extension could be sought. Cllr Bartlett also advised that in future there was some doubt whether refurbishment of play areas would be grant funded. Cllr Bartlett advised that the previously discussed Mercury Plaques would be presented on 14 March and encouraged the PC to attend. Cllr Bartlett went on to update Councillors on Community Forum Matters which are in the public domain.

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### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **(a) Play Area Repairs**

In progress

#### **(b) New Play Area**

PTD outlined the further quotes in respect of the improvements to the play area and it was agreed that the budget for the project should be capped at £17,000 net of VAT. Funding was already in place with the £5,000 grant as reported above, match funding from the PC of £5,000, £1,500 from Radian and £500 from the Good Causes. Community Funding from the Leydene build was also expected which RB was pursuing. It was agreed that the Village Hall should be approached for further funding. It was suggested and agreed that volunteers could be utilised to undertake ground works and the dismantling of any equipment not being re-used. PTD would arrange a further meeting with the preferred contractor to utilise the budget to the best outcome with a view to works progressing this summer.

It was furthermore agreed that the new play area should be sited directly north of the currently site towards the edge of the car park but leaving a mowers width between the fence and the curb.

#### **(c) Parish Plan**

Noted all actions progressed and will continue to be monitored.

#### **(d) Drainage Kews Meadow**

The Chairman advised that although some remedial action had been completed by Southern Water, the underlying drainage problems were still there and would in all probability resurface in time. However SW has expressed that no further work could be envisaged in the short term – this is primarily resource and financial constraints.

#### **(e) Five Ways**

Further to previous concerns regarding the damage by dirt bikers to the Five Ways bridle paths it was noted that there is a need for concerned users and residents to monitor and gather evidence over a period of time.

## 6 **Planning**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported on current and recently heard applications, details of which are available on the SDNP website.

Concern was raised regarding an apparently approved barn to be erected under agricultural guidelines at land at Greenway & Gravel Lane. Prior notice of the erection of a building had been given but it would now appear that disregarding EMPCs consultee submission, permission has been given for a large building with measurements 90.5 x 40.3 x 20 ft (not advised in the application, or by EHDC) to be built. This would appear to be contrary to any agricultural need on a small holding of some 4 acres. It was agreed that BB would investigate via the SDNP and RB will investigate with EHDC planning.

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### **Neighbourhood Plan**

**a) Update:** BB reported on an anticipated large turnout for the residents pop in session on 7 Feb where all their previously suggested sites for potential development will be presented for their assessment and feedback . BB encouraged all to attend.

### **b) Housing Needs Survey**

On behalf of the NP Steering Committee BB outlined the NP requirement for a professional Housing Needs Survey and the likely cost for a 4 page questionnaire of £2600 plus VAT and £1450 for distribution cost. It was agreed to proceed and to offer an incentive to improve the response rate. BB advised that he was confident of obtaining further Govt. grant money for this but in the meantime the Council may have to bridge any cost from reserves. All agreed.

## 8 **Finance**

### **(a) Current Report**

The Clerk gave an overview of the current financial situation and the likely outcome of income exceeding expenditure but that EMPC accounts would still be easily within budget at the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

### **(b) Precept 2015/2016**

The Clerk presented a projected budget for Councillors to consider which included a budget for the potential election in May and increased repairs required for the Pavilion. It was agreed to increase the Precept by 3% to £24,400 (Twenty four thousand four hundred pounds) for 2015/16 and this will include the Council Tax Support Grant.

The Councillors awarded the Clerk an increase of 3% to her contract fee for the 2015/16 year. This also took into account an ever increasing workload.

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## **Other Parish Matters**

### **(a) Sub Committee Reports :**

AR & RB advised of a meeting with Ian James (HCC Highways) on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb to survey a traffic hazard with the road pinch point exiting/entering the village on the Clanfield Road. They will also highlight road surface potholes in Harvesting and Temple Lane. BB advised that a letter was being sent to HCC regarding the closed footpath number 18.

### **(b) Annual Parish Assembly and nominations for Parish Award**

PTD suggested we invite someone to demonstrate the defibrillator at the Annual Parish Assembly and all agreed. AR would speak to Emma Gaisford regarding this. Discussion took place on suitable recipients for the Parish Award.

### **(c) Dark Skies**

It was agreed to incorporate our support for the SDNP "Dark Skies" initiative into the Neighbourhood plan. BB to draft a policy.

### **(d) Litter**

CP advised that after the sad death of Vic Giles who picked up village litter, a replacement was being sought. AR advised that he met with representatives from McDonalds with Doug Jones and Nick Heasman to seek a solution to the considerable litter in the area which it was hoped McDonalds would undertake.

### **(e) Heritage Lights**

Discussion following resident correspondence regarding the brightness of the new heritage lights in two specific village locations, adversely impacting two households. Councillors were sympathetic to the issues highlighted and were aware that EMPC, on behalf of the two directly affected residences, had already lobbied and facilitated a site visit from HCC. It was agreed that the heritage lights do appear brighter but it was hoped that a remote dimming system for the lights will be activated (as part of a larger network). SSE is already behind with a large urban switch-over, and the timing for EM is locked into that schedule. AR & AB advised that although we have pushed to bring this forward, it's not within our control and no final assessment can be made until the dimming system is operational at which point the issues could be objectively assessed. This had already been advised to the residents.

**(f) Wiggle Cycling Events using VH carpark and Safety in village centre/Workhouse Lane**

Councillors discussed this volume commercially organised cycling event in the village following previous concerns raised by residents. The councillors emphasised that they are not anti-cycling but, both on safety concerns and the event's overall detrimental effect upon the enjoyment of residents, It was unanimously agreed that AR would write to the Village Hall Committee to ask them to consider to no longer accept bookings for these events.

**(g) Parish Land**

It was agreed to ask Tony Perkins to undertake the strimming / grass cutting on the Recreation Ground and to ask if he could quote for the tidying up of the Ash Tree on the Frogmore end of the Allotments. It was also noted that the trees on Glenthorne Meadow were being abused

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**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Dates for the next meeting :** 22 April 2015 Annual Parish Assembly, Thursday 21 May 2015 (First meeting of the new Parish Council), Thursday 17 September 2015, Thursday 19 November 2015

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

Signed:

Date: