



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Held at East Meon Village Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Present: Councillors Marc Atkinson, Richard Bartlett, Dominic Carney, David Cooke, Susan Davenport (Vice Chair), Chris Pamplin, Alan Redpath (Chair), Sharon Silence, Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake. District Cllr Rob Mocatta. Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk), Bethan Jones (Assistant Clerk) and 11 members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received and accepted from Cllr Ken Moon.

**2. DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest**

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake, declared an interest regarding the current arrangement of the car park at Workhouse Lane and would withdraw from taking part in any discussions in this regard.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

The minutes of the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September were approved and duly signed as a true and correct record.

**4. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Rob Mocatta reported on the reorganisation of parking in Petersfield including Blue Badge system enforcement and secondly advised that EHDC were carefully reviewing budgets for next year and looking to reduce costs.

Cllr Ken Moon's monthly report will be circulated to the PC in the usual way.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM BOTH MINUTES:**

**(a) Play Areas**

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake and Cllr Silence confirmed that the repairs to the play areas were in hand and the parts have been ordered and will be erected by Ken Woodhouse. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake confirmed that she had submitted a grant application to Cllr Moon, who offered £1,000 at the last meeting and Cllr Mocatta offered to support any short fall.

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake outlined some future ideas for provision of equipment for older children in the village. A company called "ShoreTrax " provided equipment that could be dismantled and erected for summer use, possibly in the school area. Cllr Mocatta reported that at a recent Petersfield Council meeting the idea of an outdoor gym was discussed.

## **(b) Trees**

Cllr Bartlett advised that he was obtaining a second quote for the reduction of the Lime trees on parish council land on Glenthorne Meadow. He furthermore advised that as reported at the last meeting the Clerk was correct in advising that the Lime Trees beside No 20 Glenthorne did not belong to the Parish. Radian owned the land and had been informed of the parish council's view that they needed attention but it was understood that Radian were not at this stage taking any action. It was agreed that the trees on Parish Council land needed attention and Cllr Bartlett was given the authority to proceed with the lowest quote.

Cllr Davenport suggested that Chris Booker be asked to look at other trees that are owned by the parish council to assess for any potential dangerous issues. It was agreed that only the trees that this may affect were on the Recreation ground and Cllr Bartlett would ask Chris Booker to look at them.

**RB**

## **(c) Grass Cutting**

Cllr Atkinson reported that costs for grass cutting are likely to be increased and the quotes he had obtained were above that which has been spent in 2016. He went on to report that Tony Perkins was content to continue with the strimming and smaller areas of land for now. Cllr Atkinson suggested that volunteer groups and sports groups be encouraged to contribute to the cost and take ownership of the task in hand and he went on to suggest that consideration be given to purchasing kit and looking for volunteers to take on the mowing. He suggested that the cost of purchasing equipment might be in the region of £15,000 which at the current cost of grass cutting on contract would be paid for within 2 years. It was agreed to undertake a complete overview of the grass cutting which Cllr Atkinson would lead. Cllr Atkinson would bring a quote for both options for the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 in time for the precept setting for the 17/18 year. Cllr Redpath suggested that at the Parish Assembly thought be given to the current financial reserves and it may be that a significant increase in the Parish Council Precept might need to be considered.

**MA**

## **(d) The Bridge – The Cross**

The planning committee considered the request for comment on the Bridge at the Northern end of the Cross following a complaint by a member of the public about heavy vehicles using The Cross as a cut-through. HCC requested the PC to consider weight limit signs on the bridge and at each end of The Cross. It was agreed to wait for the outcome of a current survey but the sign suggested by the HCC was considered wholly inappropriate within the conservation area.

## **(e) Highways**

Cllr Carney reported on investigations which are ongoing regarding traffic management schemes. He also advised that there may be an opportunity to tackle the issue of traffic using the "Quiet Lane Regulations" which he understood designated minor rural roads to allow users to enjoy current lanes in safety and encourage drivers to engage in more careful driving. Cllr Carney commented that HCC does not seem to favour this as a mechanism as it takes

control away from the HCC and puts it in the hand of the residents. Cllr Carney advised that he would like to explore the Quiet Lanes Initiative further to see if it can be a method to alleviate some of the traffic problems that are of such a concern. Cllr Mocatta advised that a monitoring scheme is in place at Langrish for two weeks and this anecdotal method for monitoring was the best way forward which was supported. **DC**

Cllr Redpath reported on a discussion with the Chairman of Langrish Parish Council who asked if Langrish and East Meon could collaborate on potential solutions.

**(f) Stiles**

Cllr Carney advised that following on from the work undertaken by himself and Cllr Davenport, he had produced a letter to go to land owners where the stiles are an issue (previously identified by Cllr Davenport and Cllr Carney) Cllr Carney was still trying to ascertain who owns the land where some of the problem stiles are and would seek guidance from Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake in this regard. **DC**

Cllr Carney went on to suggest a solution to the narrow impassable path on Footpaths Number 24 & 25. He suggested that he approach Mr & Mrs Jim Kendall and seek their support to move the fence to widen the footpath. Cllr Cooke supported Cllr Carney's suggestion and the Parish Council agreed that Cllr Carney should proceed with this course of action. **DC**

**(g) Five Ways Project**

Cllr Redpath allowed Mr Richard Williams to speak on this matter and he confirmed that there was significant progress on this project thanks to Nigel Brooks who has assisted with the process of moving rubble.

**(h) Signage**

Cllr Silence and Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake advised that quotes were in hand to renovate the village Gate Way signs and Gates, the latter being the most urgent before the year end. **SS/PTD**

**(i) River**

Cllr Pamplin advised that with the help of volunteers the river has been cleared of weed and there were no litter issues to report.

**(j) Allotments**

Cllr Cooke advised that there were no issues apart from two outstanding payments.

**6. PARISH MATTERS:**

**(a) Workhouse Lane Car Park**

Cllr Redpath outlined the recent news that EHDC were surrendering their lease on the only village car park which had been leased by The Bereleigh Estate for the last 22 years, at a static rent. It was understood that Bereleigh were quite willing to continue on this basis. Cllr Mocatta advised that a decision had been taken on this matter some time ago but that a consultation that was expected with the Parish Council on the matter had not taken place.

EHDC informed the owners of the car park (Bereleigh Estate) that they were not going to continue funding the car park in East Meon. Cllr Redpath invited comment from the Councillors present who debated the likely cost of financing and managing a car park. Cllr Mocatta advised that no finite costs were available but a credit card only pay machine would cost in the region of £800 and the revenue would go to Parish Council. Enforcement revenue would accrue to the District Council rather than the Parish Council.

Cllr Carney asked where cars would be parked if drivers were charged to park in Workhouse Lane Car Park and this concern was echoed by all present as cars would inevitably use the Village Hall Car Park and verges which would cause serious issues particularly when the Football pitch is being used.

Cllr Redpath expressed his view that it was not acceptable that this decision had been made without prior consultation with East Meon Parish Council and any meaningful assessment of the need for, and use of, this well used car park. He requested that a meeting be held with EHDC to discuss properly evaluate the likely impact of no public car park in the village, particularly as East Meon is promoted by EHDC & the SDNP as a prime tourist area with many walks commencing at the village car park. This was supported by all Councillors present and Cllr Mocatta agreed to broker a meeting with the EHDC and Cllr Carney, Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Redpath and Cllr Davenport to discuss. Cllr Carney felt that the SDNP should be made aware of this issue.

**AR/RM**

## **7. PLANNING**

### **(a) Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Redpath reported that the Plan is going through final compliance checks and the intention is to have the pre- submission plan forwarded to the South Downs by the end of November. The plan with any amendments resulting from the parish consultation responses to the document will be made available to the public. A communication and the time line has been already been posted on the parish web site, notice boards and also submitted to Meon Matters which should be published in early December.

### **(b) Review of planning applications**

Cllr Bartlett reported on responses that the Planning Committee have submitted regarding Planning Applications considered since the last Parish Council Meeting, all of which are available on the SDNP website.

#### **SDNP/16/04050/HOUS : The Barn at Chalk Dell**

The Parish Council submitted a no objection response to this application but raised concern over consideration of policies relating to Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy June 2014 : CP27 In relation to light pollution, The Emerging South Downs Local Plan : SD9 Dark Night Skies.

#### **SDNP/16/03413/LDE : Land North of Allotments Workhouse Lane**

No Objection

**SDNP/16/04347/TPO : 30 Leydene Park : Tree Felling**

No objection

**SDNP/16/04855/TPO : 7 Leydene Park : Tree Felling**

No Objection

**SDNP/16/04562/FUL : Parsonage Barn**

Cllr Bartlett had no comments to add to the documented objection and the public Planning Meeting regarding this application which he understood has been rejected by the Planning Authority.

**SDNP/16/02740/HOUS : Church Cottage**

This application represented a second, slightly revised application which the Parish Council objected to (see website for details) It is understood that EHDC will re visit this on 1st or 22nd December 2016 (to be advised)

**SDNP/16/05141/DCOND : Discharge of condition 2-3 for original planning application**

East Meon Parish Council objected to the disregard to planning law and process. Furthermore, this is the fifth breach of planning control in just over a year. The others being documented in the Parish Council response to EHDC which is available on the website.

**SDNP/16/04993/LDP : Stoney Croft : Two separate rear elevations as part of permitted development**

A No Objection to this application was submitted but the Planning Committee were unsure if the granting of a Certificate of Proposed Lawful Development is correct in a designated area of a National Park and wonders if a Full Planning permission is required.

The Parish Council questions whether it is appropriate to apply for permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) England Order 2015 for what appears to be Article 2(3) and 2(4) land in a protected area.

**SDNP/16/04796/HOUS and SDNP/16/05073/LIS : Mill Cottage: Extension**

No objection

**SDNP/16/05398/TCA : Hyde Cottage : Fell Conifer**

No Objection

Previously reported and progress report awaited :

**SDNP/16/03874/FUL : Laurel Cottage**

**SDNP/16/02862/FUL : Long View Folly Farm Twentways**

An application is expected for Giants Cottage, Oxenbourne

Cllr Redpath enquired re progress at The Forge and Cllr Bartlett advised that areas inside and outside have been cleared but nothing more.

Cllr Atkinson requested that Council consider listing the WW1 War Memorial in the village which was well received. **MA**

## **8. OPEN FORUM (20.50 – 21.05)**

Mr Richard Williams queried the documentation relating to the Neighbourhood Plan on the website. Cllr Redpath explained where to find it and Cllr Atkinson said he would make some adjustments to the site to enable easier access. **MA**

## **9. FINANCE**

### **a) Approval of payments and receipts to date and actual v budget accounts**

The Clerk reported on a challenging year with grass cutting in particular proving very expensive as discussed earlier in the meeting. She advised that with only 4 months to go to the year end it would be a challenge to come out with a balanced budget and Councillors would need to consider using reserves for some expenses. The Clerk advised that the Income was as expected and the significantly increased football club fees had been invoiced but not yet paid. The Clerk went through the expenses to date and highlighted any differences between the budget and actual to date. She also advised that the balance held as at 14<sup>th</sup> November was £29408.29. This however included grants as follows (River : £800, Five ways £880 plus the balance in the N Plan fund of £3991). VAT owed as at the date of the meeting was £2970 and grants expected on trigger factors from Leydene £3090 making a true balance of £29,797.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE OF NOTE**

Cllr Redpath advised those present of some correspondence to Cllrs Davenport, Bartlett and Cooke regarding a complaint by a parishioner on a planning matter.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

Date of the next meeting is Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 at 1900 in the Village Hall  
There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.30

Signed:

Date: