



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Church Hall on Monday 29 June 2015 at 1900**

Present: Alan Redpath, (Chairman), Susan Davenport (Vice Chair), Marc Atkinson (until 2020), Richard Bartlett, Dominic Carney, David Cooke, Sharon Sillence, Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake. Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk), County Councillor Ken Moon. 23 members of the public were present and were given permission to speak by the Chairman during the Open Forum.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from District Councillor Robert Mocatta and Councillor Chris Pamplin.

2 DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest: PTD 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.

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: held on 16 May 2015 were reviewed. DC raised the issue of the timings of meetings and AR advised that this would be discussed as agreed previously. The minutes were then signed as a true and correct record.

4 REPORT

County Councillor: Cllr Ken Moon gave his verbal report which mirrored the one previously circulated to Councillors and will be available on the website.

District Councillor : Report to be submitted

5 HOUSING NEEDS REPORT

The findings of the Housing Needs Survey report, commissioned by the Parish Council on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan, were presented by Gillies O'Bryan-Tear. Councillors had the opportunity to comment and to add or amend any of the conclusions which they declined to do and therefore it will appear as presented on the website for general reference. The report includes the findings and therefore will not be repeated in these minutes.

MA

SD commented that the SDNP draw upon such information when considering future housing needs/builds.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) **Reports of Councillors activities and responsibilities:** RB reported on the planning applications to date and the methodology of how applications are considered. There were no current issues to raise.
- b) **Councillor Training:** Ongoing. AR encouraged those who have not yet attended a training meeting to do so. **ALL**
- c) **Web Site Development:** MA gave an overview of progress to date regarding the parish website using the enhanced technology capability for access to more information and improved communication. MA advised that the development aims to keep the residents in touch with matters affecting them and also to allow a two-way flow of communication. The idea will be for the site to be the Parish Home Page acting as a conduit to each community group's own section. The Parish Council will be one of those groups and within that will include reports on Parish Council activities as well as minutes and statutory documents. Chris Moor has assisted in building a data base which will allow interested parties in the community to subscribe to receive information on areas of interest by supplying their email address. It was envisaged that the website would be further expanded to include information on the weather, village events, diary dates etc. This was well received and the Chairman thanked MA and Chris Moor for their efforts in this regard. **MA**
- Mobile Library :** DC to check dates to put in Notice Board **DC**
- d) **Village Hall Play Area:** PTD gave an overview of the progress to date and in particular the siting of the play area and the types of equipment suggested. PTD advised that plans are available for those interested to look at them. Issues that have very recently arisen regarding the ownership of the land were being addressed as was the need to address the legal aspects of a Lease between the Village Hall and the Parish Council which SD would oversee. **PTD**
SD
- e) **Five ways Project:** The Chairman advised that Mr Richard Williams was seeking to complete this project to avoid the grant circa £800 having to be paid back. **RW**
- f) **Litter Bins/Bottle Banks :** AR reminded Councillors that a volunteer had undertaken to collect litter in the vicinity of the village in return for a donation to charity. AR also advised that he, Doug Jones and Nick Heasman (SDNP) had met with the MacDonald's regional manager to discuss the ongoing litter problem and how to address it. MacDonalds subsequently agreed to pay for a monthly litter collection along the Langrish/East Meon Road and this commenced in March.

AR raised residents' concerns over the Bottle Banks in Workhouse Lane regarding the broken glass, children playing on the banks and some occasional fly tipping – further exacerbated by collection lorries contributing to kerb damage in the narrowness of Workhouse Lane. As we now have kerb side bottle collection the need for, or benefit of, bottle banks was questioned. It was agreed that residents would be consulted on this matter in the next edition of Meon Matters. **AR**

g) **Heritage Lights:** As previously reported there is an issue with the brightness of 2/3 of the new heritage lights in the village which is being addressed. It is hoped that dimming or shields might resolve this issue and the PC are actively seeking this solution. Councillor Ken Moon offered to assist with this on-going issue and the Clerk would furnish him with all the relevant details. **SC**

7 PLANNING

a) Current Applications - reported on previously by RB

b) Neighbourhood Plan – AR/SD/RB reported on a meeting in Midhurst with the SDNP officers. Sue Atkinson (EMNP work group) and Lisa Jackson (EMNP's consultant) also attended. The purpose was to discuss and gain insight into the SDNP's landscape assessment of all sites previously suggested by EM residents.

SD commented that she was impressed with how SNDP assessed sites and furthermore it was emphasised that all sites had to be sequentially and consistently assessed by the same nationally accepted methodology before the SDNP could identify those sites which it considered inappropriate. Highway access and drainage assessments were not part of this view and would come later. Those who attended were encouraged that the SDNP were looking at sites in a sympathetic way with considerable understanding of EM's unique topography. RB added that he felt that the SDNP were very helpful and that it was an exceptionally good meeting and clarification over windfall sites was given. AR advised that they were also assessing SHLAA sites which had been previously submitted by landowners many years ago before the NP was conceived. AR advised that the parish had employed their own landscape expert and the same mythology had been followed, with some resulting minor differences

Further discussion would follow after the all parish councillors had been more fully debriefed (in two days' time) on the meeting with the SDNP and the opportunity to discuss and decide whether to continue with the Neighbourhood Plan. There was a time pressure as the SDNP Local Plan completes in July 2016 and the NP has to be completed 6 months prior (early 2016) **AR**

8

OPEN FORUM (15 minutes allowed) : started at 2040 and Chairman allowed an extension to 2115. Issues raised by those members of the public present:

- **Neighbourhood Plan:** Suggestions made re the Landscaping document and draft policies which may change and should be kept in mind to protect the interests of the village. Queries were raised regarding the boundaries of the Plan and whether there would be another open meeting for members of the public to have the chance to raise questions. The Chairman advised that an integral part of the process included a several public consultation and a residents' referendum.
- **Meetings:** Queries were raised regarding the timing and venue for the Parish Council meetings which would be considered by the Parish Council when setting the next meeting dates and venues. It was also requested that these dates be advertised in the Meon Matters as well as currently on the two Parish Notice Boards and the Website.
- **Traffic issues:** Speed and traffic concerns were raised which would be considered by the Councillor who is responsible for roads. Cllr Ken Moon suggested the village considered a Speed Watch system.
- **Roads:** Concern was raised regarding the maintenance of the roads in the village and on the approaches.
- **River:** It was noted by a parishioner that volunteers had offered to clear rubbish from the river with permission of the land owner.
- **Communication:** Communication via and to the Parish Council was raised and it was hoped that this was already being addressed by the development of the new website reported earlier.

9

OTHER PARISH MATTERS

a) Annual Parish Assembly: The minutes of the Assembly were reviewed and any matters raised had been or were being dealt with.

10 FINANCE

a) Audit: The Clerk reported on the Audit which had not raised any issues and the Chairman and Councillors thanked the Clerk for her continued fiscal control. He reminded those present that the budget for the current year was a challenge. A fully quarterly report will be given at the next meeting.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dates of next meetings :

Monday 14 September at 1900 in the Village Hall

Monday 16 November at 1900 in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2145

Signed:

Date: