



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Church Hall on Thursday 20 November 2014**

Present: Alan Redpath, (Chairman), Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake (Vice Chair), George Atkinson, Brian Biggs, Annie Bone, Anella Parker-Martin, Joe Selby, Chris Pamplin, Alastair Dudley-Williams, Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk), EHDC Cllr Richard Bartlett, HCC Cllr Ken Moon (until 10.30am)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
NONE

2 ELECTION OF CASUAL VACANCY: Alistair Dudley Williams was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council until May 2015 and welcomed.

3 DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest: GA advised of his interest in a current planning application at Lower Farm.

4 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: held on 11 September 2014 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

5 REPORTS

County Councillor, Ken Moon District Councillor: Cllr Moon said that he was pleased to make the meeting.

- Broadband coverage was being addressed and Cllr Moon said that he would keep the PC informed of progress.
- Winter preparations - plans in hand for possible transport issues due to bad weather and a new storage in Havant holding 25,000 tonnes of salt.
- A Comprehensive road maintenance plan is in place and solutions to car parking issues in Petersfield are being explored. Comment was raised about a hole on the West Meon Road which can recently caused damage to a car. Councillors were encouraged to report holes on the road and if damage occurred to a vehicle as a result of a hole in the road then compensation could be sought.

- The issue of the significant increase in cost of the Perins Bus Pass was raised and noted.
- BB advised that he had attended a meeting hosted by HCC creating awareness of the Emergency Planning Team which provided a priority access to authorities in times of crisis. Cllr Moon advised that this worked well in other villages and something that East Meon could consider.

District Councillor, Richard Bartlett

- Reported on a change of staff at EHDC Planning Department. Mr Chris Murray (head of planning) would be leaving and he will be replaced on a temporary basis by Mr John Slater.
- Advised that having taken advice from Planning Officers at EHDC, no issues should arise from the proposed enhancement of the Play Area at the Village Hall as long as there was permission from the Village Hall Committee.
- Advised that he had attended a meeting with the Sustainability Centre at their request regarding proposals yet to be formalised on enhancing the facilities. A plaque on each of the 3 remaining original buildings had been proposed to acknowledge the significance of HMS Mercury during the War.

6 PLANNING

a) Review and current issues

Cllr Bartlett acknowledged the support from Councillors on recent planning applications at Beat House and Colchenna which cumulated in a positive outcome for the village. He went on to say that he greatly valued the work that Parish Councillors undertake.

The Forge

Cllr Bartlett advised that the Cricket Club had asked him to make some comments to the meeting on their behalf which he agreed to do. He passed on the disappointment that the Club felt regarding the perceived lack of reference to the Sport for England Report (which advised that the application endangered the future of the Club unless a 30ft net was erected) and which had been highlighted during the judgement. However the EMCC now wished to look towards the future. The Chairman commented that the Parish Council had followed due process and consideration of all issues presented. And hoped that everyone could now move forward to a positive outcome. AR advised that the PC had been copied on a letter Mr Croucher had written to the G. Bartlett, chair of the Forge Association to find common ground for the Forge's restoration.

AR concluded that the matter was now for Mr. Croucher and the Association to resolve prior to the parish council considering any potential planning application. As before, the chairman would be willing to mediate if required.

BB raised issue of The Sport for England Report having highlighted a danger for the residents of the Forge, then the play area should be evaluated for a similar danger. It was agreed to ask ROSPA to take this into consideration when they next inspect the facility.

CLlr Bartlett counselled that the PC should avoid facilitating any presentations of planning applications whether by the applicant or by those opposing. All PC responses should be judged solely on the application, and when necessary a site visit to seek any clarifications. The chair recommended this prudent advice to the meeting.

Heritage Lighting

The Chairman read a letter of thanks from Jane Atkinson who with many others in the village admired the new heritage lamps in the village conservation area. It was seen as an important enhancement – championed by CLlr Bone.

Proposed Housing Application by Radian

The Clerk raised concerns from residents over a Radian proposal to build two dwellings at the top of Temple Lane. Councillors took note of the concerns but were unable to comment until a formal planning application was submitted for the East Meon Planning Committee to consider.

b) Communicating Planning Applications

Discussion ensued on a request for the PC to consider advising by email those interested in planning applications as they were submitted. It was mentioned that most planning applications are minor i.e. tree lopping in conservation areas, and near neighbours are already advised of all applications. However three options were discussed;

- A mailing list – this was seen as too difficult to maintain with a hit and miss circulation. It could also be perceived as too intrusive for some residents with minor non contentious applications.
- Parish notice boards – again were seen as not the best media given the all the differing dates for each separate application in any given period.

- Parish web site - this was the favoured and most practical method of communication. A prominent link to all SDNP (EHDC) planning applications already exists on the parish web site, although this could be made more visible with clear directions to access applications. For those residents interested in viewing all planning applications it was a simple task that yielded the most current information.

This option was the unanimous view of all present

More significant applications are also viewed and inevitably visited by EMPC planning committee councillors who as elected representatives consider applications on behalf of the parish. Any potentially contentious applications are brought to the attention of the full parish councillors, and when applicable residents. This process had worked well.

It was further commented that applications were very much in the public domain via the parish website link and the Petersfield Post. It was however agreed to publicise these media of in the Meon Matters, parish notice boards and on the parish web site with access to the applications.

7 MATTERS ARISING

a) Holes In Recreation Ground : WIP

b) Repairs to play equipment : WIP

c) Lengthsman: Results of potential funding for cluster villages was awaited but concern was raised about East Meon taking part in the scheme as potential issues with ownership and employment law could make the scheme difficult to manage.

d) Car Park Refurbishment : Complete

e) Play Area Refurbishment

Councillors formally agreed to spend up to £5,000 to match fund potential grants for the enhancement of the Play Area at the Village Hall area. Grants were expected for the balance but no work will be commissioned until grants were in place. It was furthermore agreed to move the play area towards the corner of the field adjacent to where it is now.

f) Pedestrian Gate - Recreation Ground - WIP

g) Parking by Pavilion / new 5 bar gate : Complete

h) Bottle Banks: Under consultation. It was agreed to change the small bin next to the allotments to a larger one which is currently in storage at GA farm.

i) Drainage: WIP. BB raised the issue of a drain on Kews Meadow development possibly being under-utilised or even not connected. It was agreed to pursue this.

j) Village Hall Plaque: It was agreed to produce a plaque in house and PTD offered to suggest a carpenter for the task.

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PARISH MATTERS

a) Reports from Subs committees: It was noted that the Five-ways are being abused again by trail bikers and it was agreed that this needs to be addressed.

b) Parish Plan Update - Nothing to report since the last meeting - actioned

c) Neighbourhood Plan -

AR advised the meeting that regrettably two members of the Build Group had resigned (G.Bartlett & Rosemary Ryder). Their valuable contribution to date was noted. AR further advised that there was a group meeting scheduled that evening to discuss/agree any issues and needed changes to current processes, and the need to ensure that all three committee & steering group agendas and minutes are shared, informative, transparent and publicly accessible. AR summed up by reiterating that processes and communications had to be clear and democratic to achieve a successful outcome for the neighbourhood plan which had been overwhelmingly endorsed by residents.

PTD proposed a vote of thanks to AR for his efforts which was echoed by the meeting.

9. FINANCE

(a) Current Report

The Clerk gave an overview of the current financial situation and all payments and receipts for the period were approved. The Clerk reported on an approx £2,000 increase in predicted income and a similar amount of saving on expenditure. All expenses and receipts for the period were approved.

The Clerk advised of the cost of a contested election in 2015 which was estimated at £2,500. This gave rise to a discussion on Councillors standing and AR requested Councillors to advise him by the end of the year of their intentions.

The Clerk advised of outstanding monies and agreements with regard to the Allotments.

(b) Request for Grant from History Society: Councillors approved a £240 grant on the proviso that in future if they apply for a grant that it is accompanied by a funding report for the Society. It was understood that it is a self funding society.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Radian Gardens: CP raised concern over the state of some of the gardens owned by Radian
- The PC adopted the policies for Vulnerable Adults and the Child Protection Policy
- Date for the next meeting agreed as Thursday 29 January 2015 and the date for the Annual Parish Assembly was to be agreed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.10 p.m.

Signed:

Date :

