

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
**for East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall,**  
**At 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22 April 2015**

**Present: The Parish Councillors including Alan Redpath (Chairman), County Councillor Ken Moon, District Councillor Richard Bartlett, 102 Parishioners and Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk)**

**1. Apologies for Absence** were received from: Councillor Brian Biggs, Michael Blakstad and Sue Zirps.

**2. Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (23 April 2014) had been circulated, and were signed as a true and accurate record.

**3. Chairman's Report** had been previously circulated in Meon Matters and highlighted the Parish Councils' operations and issues over the past year. The parish councillors give their customary introduction and Alan Redpath acknowledged their work on behalf of the community, and in particular that of Cllr Brian Biggs and also Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk), who yet again had ensured that the parish achieved a balanced budget for the previous year. He thanked his fellow Councillors and Clerk for all their support throughout the past year.

**4. Financial Report**

Parishioners were given a copy of the unaudited accounts for year to 31 March 2015. The Clerk gave an overview of the year to date reporting on a positive outcome for the year and highlighting those items which were over budget. The Clerk also advised that the total monies held included grant monies for future projects and the movement of monies relating to the Neighbourhood Plan. George Thompson queried an inaccurate figure in the difference column which the Clerk said would be corrected and did not in any way change the actual, budget or final figures of the accounts and therefore could be approved.

**5. County Council & District Reports**

HCC Councillor Ken Moon and EHDC Councillor Richard Bartlett gave their County and District reports for 2014/15.

**6. Annual Parish Award** - Clare Bartlett was the well-deserved and popular recipient of the 2015 parish award. It was presented by the Parish Council Vice Chair, Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake who listed some of Clare's contributions to the community over many years.

**7. Defibrillator Presentation**

Steve Cartwright (NHS) gave a demonstration on how to use the newly installed CPS defibrillator sited on the village hall wall. Those present also thanked Emma Gaisford for her persistence and efforts in achieving the successful installation which was funded by the generosity of many village organisations.

**8. Meon Matters & Country Fair** - Jane Webber gave an appeal for much needed volunteers (and articles) for Meon Matters and for the May Country Fair.

## **9.Open Forum**

Before opening the Q&A forum, the Parish Chairman commented upon the sometimes contentious area of planning applications – he emphasised that if we are to avoid discord in the community it was important to focus upon the planning issues involved and not the applicant.

### **Power Lines**

Alan Collett raised the issue of undergrounding power lines and suggested that East Meon collaborate with Clanfield and Froxfield to encourage the SDNP to bury high voltage lines on scarp slopes. Bill Tyrwhitt-Drake advised that some burying of lines was imminent from Park Farm Road to Park Hill.

### **Broadband**

Emma Smith made a plea for the village to lobby BT to upgrade the cabinet in East Meon and commented that other surrounding villages seemed to get priority. She encouraged those present to register on line with HCC to support the campaign. It was furthermore suggested that the issue be highlighted via the parish website and Meon Matters.

### **Litter Bins**

Caroline Scott asked if a litter bin could be sited by Pump House in Frogmore. The Clerk advised that this would be possible but that we would then have to pay a separate emptying charge, however she would look into the matter and try to negotiate one more bin to be emptied. A resident from Park Vista also raised the issue of an unsightly bin outside her bedroom window which Cllr Pamplin said he would look into.

### **Roads**

John Whitear raised the issue of pot-holes in the road and the Chairman advised that as ever these were always pursued but the workload and budget of HCC was such that it often took a while to rectify. Alan Collett advised that it is worth reporting potholes via the HCC website as there may be a case for compensation from HCC in the event of damage to tyres etc. if the pothole had previously been reported.

### **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**

Mark Rowland raised concern over what he felt was a confusing situation surrounding potential sites for housing. Alan Redpath agreed that this hadn't been fully understood by everyone and perhaps the NP team's communications had relied too heavily on Meon Matters and residents accessing the parish web site. He hoped that the recent distribution of the NP Key Facts leaflet provided greater clarification. George Atkinson made the point that professional planning advice was that a NP was essential for parishes if they wished to safeguard their community from unwelcome development.

David Pritchard voiced concern that the FACT sheet that Alan referred to did not include comments from the steering group meeting of 12 February 2014 about there being no appetite for peripheral expansion development to the south of the main village. Alan Redpath emphasised that this and indeed many other equally relevant points continued to

be tracked within the NP process, but the purpose of the leaflet had space limitations as to what Key Facts could be communicated. Frances Rees from The Green suggested that there could be a live Notice board in the village where people could pose questions

Stuart Martin suggested that more collective expertise in the village could be harnessed and more people encouraged to contribute. He stated that given his legal experience planning was a very complex area and hoped that the expertise in the village can come together to work to a good outcome.

Gaye Bartlett suggested a meeting with Chris Paterson from the SDNP where parishioners could ask questions and then feel better informed, she felt that in the past all the information was not available. Alan Collett urged the Parish Council to make available any statutory consultations relating to the SDNP or NP so that people can comment. He advised that at a recent meeting which debated the allocation of housing from Eastbourne to Winchester only 14 were present. He urged people to engage in the process and to register on the website for updates. Emma Smith voiced her opinion that information had been missing which caused unfounded rumours, and she urged the Parish Council to demonstrate that they were listening.

The Neighbourhood Plan which was initiated at the 2013 parish assembly was an area of considerable interest, and indeed some concern within some sections of the community. Although widely supported and progress regularly communicated through Meon Matters and the parish web site, the complexity of the process was still not fully understood. There was a need for even more communication and wider involvement, especially with forum open days, one of which was hopefully planned for 4/5 weeks once fuller and more meaningful information was available. The chair also said that there was still a long way to go and it was important not to front-run the process and the outcome. He also said that too much of a huge workload was being carried by too few and appealed for more volunteers within the parish and hoped they would contact him.

**Parish Council Elections**

Lucinda O'Bryan-Tear requested that those present who were standing for election made themselves known to the meeting. Alan Redpath asked all those standing to stand and introduce themselves which they did. Robert Mocatta advised that there was a clear link on the EHDC web site to enable everyone to see prospective candidates and, who proposed and seconded them. The link would be made available on the parish website.

Sue Atkinson gave a vote of thanks for all the work that the Parish Council had done over the past four years.

Alan Redpath in closing the meeting said that he hoped that the East Meon residents would continue to work together for the benefit of the whole community

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm

Signed: ..... Date : .....

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