



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Held at East Meon Village Hall on Monday 14 September 2015 at 1900**

Present: Alan Redpath, (Chairman), Susan Davenport (Vice Chair), Marc Atkinson, Richard Bartlett, Dominic Carney, David Cooke, Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake. Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk), County Councillor Ken Moon, District Councillor Robert Mocatta.

17 members of the public were present and were able to speak during the Open Forum.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Councillor Chris Pamplin and Councillor Sharon Sillence.

**2 DECLARATIONS of Personal or Prejudicial Interest:** Councillor Richard Bartlett advised that he would withdraw from any discussion regarding the The Forge application. 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 29 June 2015 were reviewed. The minutes were 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:** Cllr Ron Mocatta reported on the continued progress of the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan.

Broadband was discussed and those present were advised by Cllr Mocatta regarding progress on possible installation of super fast broad-band possibly in the next 12 months. Any improved speed would depend on location distance from main cabinet. The new Parish website will keep the parish posted on any progress.

## 5 DEMONSTRATION OF NEW WEBSITE

Marc Atkinson and Chris Moor led a demonstration of the new parish website which was extremely well received. MC advised that it was still a work in progress and further enhancements were planned. Those present felt that it was a significant development which provided much more timely information for both the PC and other parish organisations. A comment was made about the old East Meon website domains which MA advised would drop out of circulation as and when they were no longer used. AR led a thank you to MA and Chris Moor for all their work in relation to the website.

## 6 OPEN FORUM

**Disability Access:** Sue Williams requested the support of the Parish Council to progress the feasibility of producing a Disability Access Audit report for public places in the village. The Parish Council were supportive of the initiative and Councillor Ken Moon offered to take the issue up and pursue grants available in Hampshire.

KM

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Questions were raised with regard to various aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan and the selection process of sites and the number of expected units. The Chairman explained the reasons behind the SDNP's target of 15 new dwellings for East Meon were related to 'sustainability' which covered closeness to Petersfield, transport, schools, shops and facilities in the village. (West Meon for example had 11 units to find and is a smaller parish). The Chairman explained how the process for selecting sites will take into account landscape, traffic access, drainage, availability and environment/ecology. All sites suggested by residents, no matter how improbable, had to be subject to the same criteria. When this process is completed the assessments for all proposed site needs to be shown as consistent and then either ruled out, or considered as a potential site. Resident's will also be consulted and able to comment on the EM draft plan which has to be consistent with the SDNP's Local Plan - and if accepted by both them and the Gov't examiner then ultimately it would be for the residents to decide in a referendum.

Other queries were raised about potential sites by members of the public and the Chairman advised that no proposed site can be yet eliminated, nor were any of the NP teams aware of any additional sites at this stage of the process.

## 7 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES

### a) Reports of Councillors activities and responsibilities:

Councillors reported on their various responsibilities. There were no action points relating to these that had not already been highlighted previously or recorded elsewhere

**b) Village Hall U9's Play Area:**

PTD was thanked for overseeing the project which was now complete. SD was continuing to liaise with the Village Hall over the legal aspects of the siting of the play area and had agreed on behalf of the PC to contribute to the Village Hall's legal costs up to a maximum of £600, with the PC's legal costs expected to be in the same region. The Clerk advised that build costs of the play area were within budget and that when the legal costs are taken into account it will still be within budget.

Concern was raised regarding the ongoing grass cutting costs and it was agreed that the village hall should be responsible for cutting grass on their land as the PC contractors machinery would be too large to fit around the play area. Given the history of mutual benefit, the PC did not consider that this would be an issue for the VH committee.

**c) Five Ways Project :**

DC advised that the project was now underway and that a quote to match the funds donated had been agreed by Mr Richard Williams. The Clerk requested that the project be complete by the end of the financial year in March which DC advised should be achievable. **DC**

**d) Bottle Bank Consultation:**

Councillors, after taking into the account the views of those who had responded to the consultation, unanimously voted to keep the bottle bank facility and furthermore agreed to ask the caretaker to ensure that broken glass is removed regularly from the area.

**8 PLANNING**

**a) Current Planning Issues**

RB advised on applications that had been dealt with since the last meeting, all of which were non contentious with the exception of the re-submission of an application to develop the Forge.

SD reported that it was expected that the hearing for this would be in October or more likely November. The Parish Council had objected to the application and their comments were submitted and acknowledged. All the information regarding applications and PC responses are available on the website.

## **b) Neighbourhood Plan - report from Leadership Group**

AR invited Steve Ridgeon to report on the progress of the NP Leadership Group. Mr Ridgeon reported on the current tasks set by the group to 1) Understand the task in hand 2) Understand the Process 3) Communicate and feedback on the Housing Needs Analysis Report 4) Q & A session with SDNP and 5) Liaise with Highway, Water and drainage agencies.

He reported that the group's first challenge had been to understand the many elements of the NP process, review past progress and develop a comprehensive plan and organisation to bring the NP to a successful conclusion.

On behalf of the PC, AR thanked the Leadership Group for their impressive progress in such a short space of time. –and stressed that further volunteer support would be needed as the process developed. He also commented to the meeting that the parish website would continue to communicate progress at every stage.

## **9 OTHER PARISH MATTERS**

### **a) Frogmore Car Park**

AR led a discussion on the benefits of whether the parish needed to continue owning Frogmore car park and the possibility of selling the car park to the owners of the properties that are licensed to use the facility. Councillors were very receptive and felt it would be a courtesy to advise Mr Peter Street who gifted the land for its purpose many years ago. PTD agreed to speak to Mr Street. **PTD**

## **10 FINANCE**

### **a) Current Report and approval of payments to date:**

The Clerk reported on the *actual v budget* to date and highlighted any areas of concern. She advised of the current bank balance taking into account money held for the N Plan and the Five Ways Project, money expected and VAT owed. Each Councillor was provided with a comprehensive report detailing the balances and movements of money. The Clerk cautioned that although at almost 6 months into the year the predicted expenditure was £600 under budget it would be a challenge to hit the budget target by the end of the financial year. DC queried whether it was worth researching Charity Banks to gain a higher interest rate which the Clerk said she would look into. AR thanked the Clerk for her fiscal diligence. **SC**

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a) AR reported that volunteers had offered to paint the Pavilion. It was AR agreed that this should be accepted and the paint provided.

**The next meeting as previously scheduled would be on Monday 16th November at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20

Signed:

Date :