



**Meeting of the Parish Council  
Held at East Meon Village Hall on  
Monday 15 November**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Steve Ridgeon (Vice Chair), Andrew Hales, Charles Ritchie, Matt Atkinson, David Cooke, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake.  
Sam Marchant (PC), Cllr Rob Mocatta. John Mackinlay (EM Tree Warden)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received via email from Cllr Sharon Sillence.

**2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest Forms**

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake declared he had submitted a Planning Application.

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Chair asked the Councillors to consider whether they felt the Minutes were a true record of the meeting held on 13 September 2021. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read. Proposed by Cllr Ridgeon and seconded by Cllr Cooke and duly signed as a true and correct record.

**4. Co-opting of a New Councillor**

The Chair outlined the procedure which had been followed correctly in advertising the vacant Cllr position.

The Chair then introduced Ms Sarah Round who had expressed her interest in the post. A vote was taken by all present Cllrs by show of hands and unanimously agreed in favour of Ms Round being co-opted.

The Chair suggested Cllr Round should take on the following responsibilities potential grants, play areas and Village Hall Committee liaison. Cllr Sillence had been consulted prior to the meeting and had confirmed she was happy to be responsible for the maintenance of the Frogmore car park instead of the play areas. Cllr Ritchie agreed to take on responsibility for liaison with Harvest Football Club. PC to prepare new list of areas of responsibility.

**PC**

**5. Presentation by John Mackinlay (EM Tree Warden and Member of EMNG) on  
Global Warming and Trees for Shade in EM Public Places**

Mr Mackinlay introduced himself as the representative of the Tree Working Group (TWiG) which was looking at the impact of climate change on the parish public spaces. Mr Mackinlay described in detail the importance of planting trees within the village of East Meon to help future generations cope with rising and intense

temperatures. He suggested starting modestly by planting hedgerows in public spaces and consulting experts to select the most sustainable trees to create canopies. Mr Mackinlay said that at the moment he was seeking Parish Council support and a commitment to make the project part of parish business. He confirmed that in due course financial support would be welcome towards the costs of trees, fencing and protection and then ongoing maintenance costs. Cllrs agreed that trees for shade would be an amenity for the village so should be the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was pointed out that there should be measures taken to protect infrastructure, for example from tree roots. In conclusion with proper advice and planning the Parish Council confirmed it would be supportive of this project and it was suggested that TWiG might make a presentation at the APA to raise awareness in the village. The Chair thanked Mr Mackinlay for his presentation.

## **6. Matters Arising from the Parish Council Meeting on 13 September 2021**

### **a. Speed Reduction Sign (MA)**

Cllr Atkinson reported the original speed reduction sign had been reinstated. He had been speaking with Stroud Parish Council regarding their new speed reduction sign which provides detailed information which can then be used to inform the residents and hopefully bring speeds down. Cllrs agreed that the Parish Council should buy a similar second speed reduction sign at the price of £3200.

Cllr Mocatta offered a grant of half the cost of its purchase.

Cllr Atkinson also reminded Cllrs he has four '20 is Plenty' signs in storage. All Cllrs agreed signs should be placed at either end of Workhouse Lane and at either end of the stretch of Coombe Road near the school. Cllr Atkinson to action.

**MA**

### **b. Protection of the Bridge and Pavement Opposite the Ye Olde George Inn (CR)**

Cllr Ritchie reported the pavement had been repaired. HCC advised to keep the paving the same and repair when necessary.

### **c. BOATs Report on BEAM Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November (SD)**

The Chair reported she had attended the BEAM open meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November. A template letter was issued to all interested residents to use when writing to the SDNPA or HCC to complain of motorbikes and 4x4s on local BOATs. She went on to state that she had been approached by the TRF. She suggested she should thank them for their expression of interest and meet with them. All Cllrs agreed to this.

**SD**

**d. Defibrillator Update and Request for a Third Defibrillator Sited at The Forge (SD)**

The Chair read out the report from Mr Clive Tillbrook. The funding raised for the defibrillator was £7065. £500 of this had been donated to the Air Ambulance charity. The new defibrillator had now been installed in the telephone box. CPR awareness training will be held by Mr Tillbrook and Mrs Jennie Ham. Mr Tillbrook would like to install a third defibrillator and has suggested this should be fitted on the outside wall of the Forge by the cricket pitch. Cllrs asked that if it had not already been done a proper analysis of the village be carried out to ensure that the defibrillator was placed in the optimum location. In conclusion Cllrs are in favour of taking on a third defibrillator once the optimum location has been identified.

**SD**

**e. EMNG/Environmental Update (SR)**

East Meon Nature Group: A 'bat walk' will be arranged for next April (weather permitting) to track and identify bats around the village. Hopefully, a bat expert will be in attendance. This will be open to all people in East Meon. A call for volunteers for the 2022 spring TOAD migration patrols will be made in December. The TWiG project was previously covered by John Mackinlay. Sam Marchant is working on an EMNG Facebook page open to all.

South Down National Park Renature Project: The SDNPA has launched a Call for Nature Sites with a deadline of 17 January 2022 for expressions of interest. The appeal is inviting farmers, land managers, communities and conservation groups across the National Park to put forward possible sites where new wildlife habitat could be created, contributing to nature recovery in the South Downs National Park. Proposals of any size or scale will be considered and could include, for example, creating wildflower meadows, new hedgerows, more natural rivers, planting trees, creating heathland or installing dew ponds. Village greens, road verges and allotments may also have potential. The Parish Council will support applications where appropriate. For more information visit: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/nature-recovery-information-for-delivery-partners/call-for-nature-sites/>

Councillor Ridgeon attended 2 meetings recently.

1. SDNPA Nature Recovery Parish Webinar. Nature recovery is all about protecting, enhancing and creating a connected nature network of green and blue spaces which sustainably meet the needs of local communities, supports natural ecosystem services and respects the special qualities of the South Downs National Park. The webinar included a series of inspiring presentations from local groups (including East Meon Nature Group) who are doing something for nature locally

2. East Hampshire COP26 Meeting. With expert speakers, advice and exhibits from organisations, authorities and environmental groups, this meeting provided EHDC residents and businesses with the information to help cut carbon emissions and reduce climate change.

**f. Lengthsman (DC)**

Cllr Cooke reported on work that had been completed by the Lengthsman and listed which jobs were still outstanding. 25 hours are left to be used by April. Cllr Cooke asked Cllrs for suggestions of tasks. Cllr Round said the steps near Dunvegan House were dangerous. Cllr Atkinson said this would need building works and he would contact Andy Gatter at SDNPA. Cllr Moccata will contact Russell Cleaver.

**MA, RM**

**g. Noticeboard for Car Park Users (CR)**

Cllr Ritchie reported since the September meeting a £400 grant from Cllr Moccatas fund had been received. Unfortunately, the SDNPA grant application had been turned down. After discussion Cllrs decided the Parish Council should fund the remaining £400. Cllr Ritchie will organise for the noticeboard to be made and erected.

**CR**

**h. Update on Harvest Football Club (SD)**

The Chair informed Cllrs Harvest Football Club Reserves will be playing their first game on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Ritchie will be their liaison Cllr.

**CR**

**i. ROSPA Update (CR)**

Cllr Ritchie confirmed all works had been completed.

**j. Litter/Waste Bins (SS)**

Cllr Sillence not in attendance, no report.

**k. The Queens Platinum Jubilee June 2022 (SD)**

The Chair confirmed plans were in place with Mrs Phillipa Tyrwhitt-Drake heading up a very pro-active group of volunteers.

**l. Remembrance Sunday (SD)**

The Chair reported the service had been a well attended by long term residents and newcomers. Cllr Moccata said the War Memorial should be cleaned. The Parish Council will agree how this will be achieved at the next meeting.

**PC**

## **7. Parish Matters**

### **a. Traffic and Traffic Speeds (TTD)**

As above

### **b. Clearing of River Meon Downstream from Workhouse Lane Bridge (CR)**

Cllr Ritchie informed Cllrs that a request for the river to be cleared from Workhouse Lane bridge downstream had been made. Elaina Whittaker-Slark who clears the river along the High Street has advised against this. Cllrs agreed this needed to be led by Elaina. **CR**

### **c. Damage to Wall of Bridge on The High Street Opposite Glenthorne Meadow (MA)**

Cllr Atkinson confirmed this is the responsibility of the Hampshire County Council.

### **d. Toad Crossing in Oxenbourne (MA)**

Cllr Atkinson reported a resident of Oxenbourne had asked for similar signs to the ones put up in Coombe Road last year to be used through Oxenbourne. Cllrs agreed a sign should be put up near the Buriton A3 turn off and at Oxenbourne. Cllr Matt Atkinson to contact the resident. **MA**

## **8. County/District Councillor Report**

Cllr Mocatta had issued a report that would be circulated to Cllrs and posted on the Parish Council website.

## **9. Planning**

### **a. Planning Applications**

There were 7 planning applications since the last meeting, 4 dwellings and 3 trees. The Parish Council submitted one objection, after a Planning Committee meeting held in public.

Neighbourhood Plan Site South of Coombe Rd. A 2nd application was rejected by SDNPA. An appeal is in process.

Neighbourhood Plan Site land next to Garston Farm. This continues to be in process; the next step is for the SDNPA Design Review Panel to look at the application and suggest how it can better meet the aims and policies of the National Park.

### **b. Next Steps to Review Our Neighbourhood Plan**

We have had expert advice from SDNPA about our light-touch review of our Neighbourhood Plan. They are strongly encouraging groups to consider any fuller

review after the SDNP Local Plan review (and possible update) in 2024. They will be doing evidence gathering, looking at national policy etc from April 2022 and will start to understand the implications in 2023, so will be able to tell NDP groups more at that stage.

SR

## **10. Open Forum**

No Questions

## **11. Finance**

The PC reported on all payments between the dates of 1 September to 31 October. Councillors unanimously approved all payments. Proposed by Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by Cllr Cooke.

### **Agreement of Precept for 2022/2023**

The RFO presented the proposed budget for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and advised that it had been prepared using figures submitted from Councillors and using the current year as a guide.

The RFO recommended that following guidance from the internal auditor there should be an increase in precept of 2.5%. All Councillors were in agreement and the Precept of £28,852.73 (Twenty-eight thousand eight hundred fifty-two pounds and seventy-three pence) was proposed by Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by Cllr Hales and duly approved.

## **12. Any Other Business Including Correspondence of Note**

The Chair asked Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake whether the Bereleigh Estate would be kind enough to supply a Christmas tree again this year for Washers Triangle, he confirmed it would.

Cllrs Christmas meal will be on 8<sup>th</sup> December at the Izaak Walton.

The Chair confirmed the March Parish Council meeting would now be held on the 14th, Cllrs asked whether meetings could continue to be held in the Village Hall rather than reverting to the Church Hall. The Clerk to confirm VH is available.

Cllr Hales will confirm the Cricket clubs expected costs and come back to Cllrs at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20:45

Signed:

Date:

