



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held via Zoom on
Monday 25 January 2021 at 1830**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Steven Ridgeon (Vice Chair), David Cooke, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake, Matt Atkinson, Charles Ritchie, Andrew Hales, Marc Atkinson, Sharon Sillence

Suzie Brooker (PC), Cllr Rob Mocatta, Brian Biggs and Debs Evans – East Meon Nature Group.

1. Apologies for Absence

None received

2. To receive any Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

Cllr Matt Atkinson declared his family had submitted a Planning Application

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2020

The Chair asked Councillors to consider whether they felt the minutes were a true record of the meeting. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were and they were approved as read. Proposed by Cllr Charles Ritchie, seconded by Cllr Tom Tyrwhitt Drake and duly signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the meeting on the 15 November 2020

a) Speed Watch & Traffic calming measures

The Chair reported that Helen Galliano, Head of the Speed Watch campaign had been informed that training sessions would not commence until the current lockdown restrictions had been lifted. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported he had contacted Ian Janes of HCC Highways about traffic calming measures and that there were a number of possible options. He went on to report that Ian Janes had confirmed it would be highly unlikely that a 20mph limit would be agreed unless there were fatalities. Cllr Mocatta highlighted that the reduction from a 30mph to a 20mph limit was a nationwide issue for communities. Further discussion emphasised that this is an important and priority issue for residents. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake would meet with Ian Janes in the village once the lockdown restrictions were lifted to discuss the matter in more detail.

TTD

b) Double yellow lines, Speed Reduction Sign & Sign at The Cross

Cllr Atkinson reported he had spoken to Ian Janes about the double yellow lines outside the school and a request to have them repainted had been registered. Cllr Atkinson suggested the Lengthsmen could clear the leaves to make the lines that are currently there more visible.

DC

Cllr Atkinson reported that he had spoken to Sid Signs and would take the Speed Reduction sign to them to establish if it could be upgraded or if a replacement would be required.

Cllr Atkinson confirmed that he would look into a new sign at the end of the Workhouse Lane directing traffic to use Church Street.

MJA

c) Stiles

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported he had received three oak gates and that Simon Hills would help to put them in place in the Spring. Cllr Atkinson had removed the wicket gate at the recreation ground as the catch required some welding. Once the work had been carried out, the gate would be replaced.

MJA

d) Noticeboard

Cllr Marc Atkinson reported that the noticeboard was ready and hoped to collect it on Thursday 28 January. Cllr Atkinson said that the noticeboard would be in place by the next meeting. It was also agreed that the old noticeboard would be donated to the East Meon nature Groups and the legs from the redundant noticeboard in the High Street would not be removed as this is the proposed site of the EMNG noticeboard.

MA

e) Pavilion

Cllr Ridgeon reported that the planning application for the Pavilion had been submitted and that the Case Officer dealing with the application had raised concerns about the loss of facility and had also requested a financial analysis to ensure the building would be self-sufficient. Cllr Mocatta confirmed he had also spoken to the Case Officer and had discussed the possibility of a temporary and renewable planning permission for change of use. Councillors confirmed that this seemed to be a sensible solution. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake informed the Councillors that he had requested two quotes for the minimal alterations required.

SR/TTD

f) Replacement Tree on Washer's Triangle

The Parish Clerk reported that the tree had been ordered and would be delivered shortly. Chris Brooker would plant the tree in the coming weeks, depending on the weather.

PC

g) Section 106 monies

The Chair reported that EMCC had received funds for the electric scoreboard and trolley which would now be purchased. She had not received confirmation about the other applications and would update the Council at the next meeting.

SD

h) Hedge cutting

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported the hedge at the Glebe strip and Workhouse Lane Car Park had been cut.

i) Coronavirus update

The Chair reported that due to the lockdown restrictions the All Sports Court had been closed, however the play areas remained open. She asked Cllrs to consider ways of holding the planned Annual Parish Assembly in April. Cllr Tyrwhitt Drake suggested the possibility of using a grainstore as a venue which would allow for social distancing and air circulation. The Chair would discuss options with the Parish Clerk and Vice Chair and report back at the next meeting.

SD/SR/PC

5. Parish Matters

a) East Meon Nature Group wilding and toads

Councillors had had sent to them an email from the Chair forwarding a paper prepared by Brian Biggs from EMNG regarding the land North of the Sports Pavilion and the Toads on the Road initiative along with an image of the proposed Toads Crossing sign. Brian Biggs had reported that Hampshire Highways would prefer foldable permanent signs to be placed on the left hand bank opposite Coombe Cross heading towards the village and on the "sharp right bend" signpost near the entrance to Forty Acres on leaving the village. All Councillors present were in agreement of the proposed signs and locations. Proposed by Cllr Marc Atkinson, seconded by Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake.

Brian Biggs updated the Councillors on the proposed plan for the area North of the Sports Pavilion. EMNG plan to:-

1. Mark out an approx 10 Sq metre plot. Hand weed the area and sow a wildflower mix directly on to the stones in March.
2. Strim the remaining plot area once a month and remove the cut material
3. Cut the wildflowers in August
4. Review the success of the project with the EMPC in the Autumn and agree the way forward.

The Parish Council agreed with the proposal which would be reviewed in the Autumn. The Chair thanked EMNG for their work.

SD

b) Update on Fiveways & Limekiln Lane

Cllr Mocatta covered this item in his report.

SD

c) Bollards to protect pavement and bridge opposite Ye Olde George Inn

Cllr Ritchie reported he had spoken with Scott Gregory, who had completed the repair work on the bridge, about the possibility of bollards to prevent traffic from hitting the pavement and bridge. Mr Gregory had said the depth of the bridge would make it impossible to have bollards in place. A lengthy discussion ensued about suitable options. It was agreed that Cllr Matt Atkinson, Cllr Ritchie and Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake would speak to Ian Janes regarding a solution to protect the bridge and the issue with cars parking nearby and would report back at the next meeting.

TTD /MJA/ CR

d) EHDC Grant

The Chair reported that Cllr Mocatta had allocated £625 to East Meon Parish Council. The Councillors discussed the items the grant money could be used for. It was agreed that Cllr Tyrwhitt Drake would obtain a quote for repair work to the All Sports Pavilion and Cllr Sillence and the Chair would look at costs for CCTV to be installed.

SD/SS/ TTD

e) All Saints' Church request for Churchyard maintenance contribution

The Chair reported that All Saints' Church had requested a donation towards the maintenance of the Churchyard which would benefit all members of the Parish. The Councillors agreed unanimously a donation of £500. Proposed by Cllr Matt Atkinson and seconded by Cllr Sillence.

SD

f) EHDC Recycling information flyer

Cllr Ridgeon proposed that the Parish Council paid for the new EHDC recycling flyer to be printed and distributed with a copy of Meon Matters and added to the Parish Council website. A discussion ensued about the benefit of the new flyer to residents, it was felt it should include information about all the recyclable items as this would be more helpful. Cllr Hales would investigate other options and liaise with EHDC for an alternative. Cllr Hales will present a proposal at the next meeting.

SR/AH

g) Parish Clerk salary review

The Chair recommended a 5% increase to the Clerk's annual salary from 1st April 2021. The Councillors present approved the proposed increase. Proposed by Cllr Hales and seconded by Cllr Marc Atkinson.

SD

7. County / District Councillor Report

Cllr Mocatta reported that he is proposing that SDNP consider closing Fiveways and Limekiln Lane to all motorised traffic and that permanent bans are put in place. East Meon and Langrish Parish Councils had been asked to make a presentation at the next SDNP meeting on 27 March about the detrimental affect motorbikes are having on Fiveways and Limekiln Lane and their impact on other users.

Cllr Mocatta reported that HCC Cycling and Walking Working Group was carrying out a detailed survey of future transport priorities for the county and urged the Council to complete this as well as as many individual Councillors and members of the public as possible. He would email the survey to the Chair.

8. Planning

Cllr Ridgeon reported there had been 12 planning applications including 7 dwellings and 2 applications for trees. Cllr Ridgeon confirmed there had been 11 no objections and one objection which required an open meeting.

- Westbury House – a pre application to demolish and replace with 10 dwellings had been submitted.
- Coombe Road South – a new design and layout would be submitted with an increased focus on water run off.
- Garston Farm – plans would be submitted in due course.
- 2-3 The Square – the conditions had been approved and work should start with the next month.

The Chair thanked the Planning Committee for their continued work.

9. Open Forum

There were no residents present

10. Finance

Report on the Financial Position to date for the year to 31st March 2021

Councillors were provided with a summary for the year to date showing the actual position against the year's budget. For comparison, the Councillors were also provided with a summary of the same period last year. Points of note were: -

- Highlighted expenditure was the planning application fee for the Sports Pavilion; work on the Noticeboard; replacement battery for the Defibrillator; play equipment at the recreation ground. All other expenditure was as expected.
- Income – with the exception of the loss of the Clanfield FC annual payment, income was as expected from the Car Park Licences and Allotments.

The precept request for 2021/22 had been submitted to EHDC.

The internal audit was booked for 5th May.

Water Bills – The PC reported that she had contacted Castle Water and that the Sports Pavilion and Frogmore Allotment meters had been located and meter readings submitted. The meter reading at the Sports Pavilion was significantly lower than the estimate, so an adjustment would be made to the next billing period. The Cricket Club had provided a meter reading for the Pavilion and this had been submitted.

Electricity Bills – The PC reported she had contacted SSE and recommended a fixed 2yr contract which would see a reduction in the daily standing charge and unit rate.

The bank balance on the 22 January 2021 was £22,188.69

The Parish Clerk reported that between 23 October 2020 – 22 January 2021, 32 payments totalling £6,330.97 had been made. All Councillors present approved the payments.

11. Any other business including correspondence of note

No other business

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.29pm

Signed:

Date: