

**Parish Council Meeting
Held at East Meon Village Hall on
Monday 22 January 2024**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Charles Ritchie (Vice Chair), Steven Ridgeon, Matt Atkinson, Andrew Hales, Sarah Round, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake, Cllr Rob Mocatta, Sam Marchant (PC), and 2 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Sillence.

2. To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest

Cllr Atkinson declared that 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 20 November 2023. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read.

Proposed by Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by Cllr Atkinson and duly signed as a true and correct record.

4. To Co-op a Councillor following Cllr Cookes resignation

The Chair outlined the procedure which had been followed correctly in advertising the vacant Councillor position. The Chair then referred to the application letter received from Professor Trudie Lang who had expressed her interest in the post. A vote was taken by show of hands with all Councillors unanimously resolving to co-opt her.

5. Councillor Responsibilities

It was agreed that Cllr Ritchie would join the planning committee, and that Cllr Lang would take on the War Memorial, Green Spaces, Allotments and Lengthsman.

6. Open Forum

Nothing to report.

7. Reports and Updates

a) Sewage and excess water in Workhouse Lane (SD)

The Chair informed Councillors that video footage of the foul water coming up through the manhole covers in Workhouse Lane would continue to be recorded with a huge thanks to Mike Critchley for doing this. Raw sewage had also been found and reported in two resident's gardens. Southern Water contractors had visited the village and had used a camera to look along the main Workhouse Lane waste pipe. There was currently conflicting information regarding whether the pipe carried just sewage or both sewage

and surface water runoff. The Chair would continue to liaise with Southern Water pushing for plans to alleviate the problem.

It was suggested that an independent engineer could be brought in, Cllr Mocatta said that he would enquire about a Southern Water approved contractor. (SD/RM)

b) Lengthsman

It was reported that there were 18 hours remaining to be used by the end of March. Jobs to add to the worksheet were cleaning village signs, clearing ditches by the Workhouse Lane Car Park, along the bottom of The Green and at the edge of the football pitch and Painting the Sports Pavilion wood. The Parish Clerk confirmed she would action this. (PC)

c) Football Team (CR)

Cllr Ritchie had nothing to report other than that Nick Tubb seemed still to be interested in using the pitch and pavilion for next season however an agreement was yet to be made regarding the grass cutting fee. (CR)

d) EMNG/Environmental (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon reported that there had been no major activities lately, however SDNPA had approached him regarding the possibility of beavers being introduced in the Lower Farm pond area. More details would follow. (SR)

e) BOATs (SD)

The Chair reported that she together with Doug Jones of Buriton had attended the Hampshire County Council Universal Services Committee meeting on 27th November, where they had raised various points concerning the maintenance of BOATs. She had organised a follow up meeting in East Meon in February for representatives from all Parish Councils in East Hampshire which Jonathon Woods (Strategic Manager Hampshire Countryside Service) would be attending. (SD)

f) Footpaths and highways (MA)

Cllr Atkinson reported that the Hampshire County Council CFI form for funds to install the previously agreed traffic calming measures had been submitted.

The SIDs at either end of the village seemed to be working well however the one along the Clanfield road would benefit from a solar panel as the battery needed frequent charging. It was agreed that Cllr Atkinson should investigate costs with the possibility of a grant from Cllr Mocatta. (MA)

Cllr Mocatta added that there was a new app in which potholes or issues with the highways could now be reported, this app would be advertised on the PC Facebook page and the PC website. (PC)

Regarding footpaths there were no issues to report other than Brian Biggs had submitted his January report to Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Mocatta informed Councillors that there was to be a new application route for communities to follow to introduce 20mph zones, this would be community funded. The speed of traffic would have to be monitored and recorded within the proposed area and would need to be on average 24mph. Once more information was available, he would share it with the Parish Council. (RM)

g) CIL money projects (AH)

Cllr Hales reported that once the SDNPA had published their Local Plan in March, he would be able to report on progress. (AH)

h) Grants (SRound)

Cllr Round had no new grants to report.

SDNPA had approved the grant application for £7,500 CIL funding to go towards the resurfacing of the All Sports Court, however this was yet to be confirmed due to the project being completed before the grant application was submitted. (SRound)

Cllr Hales informed Councillors that he would be attending the EHDC 'Meet the Funders' workshop later in the month along with Stuart Martin and David Pepper. (AH)

8. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting on 20 November 2023

a) Confirmation of speaker for the Annual Parish Assembly (SD)

The Chair reported that she had enquired whether a representative from Southern Water would be available to speak in detail about the sewage issues in East Meon and was waiting for a reply.

Cllr Ridgeon suggested a talk from Elaina Whittaker-Slark about the introduction of beavers in the area which would be interesting and agreed to investigate this further. (SD/SR)

b) Charity donations (SD)

The Chair informed Councillors that the EMPCC had requested a grant of £500 to be used to maintain the Churchyard, this was approved by Councillors. (SD)

- c) Parish award (SD)
The Chair asked Councillors to send her their suggestions for a potential recipient of the award, to be discussed and agreed at the March meeting.
(SD)
- d) Tree survey actions (SRound)
Cllr Round would source quotations for the work needed. (SRound)
- e) All sports court booking system (PC)
The Parish Clerk reported that she had sourced a free booking site and had updated the website with the link.
- f) The Green/Parish grass cutting for 2024/25 (TTD/CR)
Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported that he had received a quotation from Petersfield Town Council for £173+VAT per cut and another from Simon Marsden for £230+VAT per cut.
Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake should investigate further and appoint one or other of the contractors as he saw fit, reporting back at the next meeting in March. (TTD)
- g) Recycling scheme (SS)
No report due to Cllr Sillences' absence.
- h) Litter pick (SS)
No report due to Cllr Sillences' absence.
- i) Rowan tree (washers Triangle) and Yew Tree (Frogmore) (SD)
It was resolved in line with the Tree Warden's advice to accept the quotation from Marchant Tree Care to remove the Rowan tree on Washer's triangle and to remove dead wood and ivy from the Yew tree in Frogmore. (SD/PC)
- j) EHDC Local Plan Consultation (SR)
Cllr Ridgeon introduced the EHDC Local Plan consultation which discussed plans for housing and development in the area. He asked Councillors to read the proposed plan and send him their comments before the deadline of 4 March for him to be able to collate these and write a response on behalf of the Parish Council. (SR)
- k) HCC Future Services Consultation (SD/SR)
The Chair introduced the HCC Future Services consultation and highlighted the proposal to cut the 67 bus service and to close the Petersfield Recycling Centre. She wanted to encourage residents to comment on the proposed plans, with the link to the consultation to be added to the PC Facebook page and the PC website.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that The Chair would submit comments on behalf of the Parish Council. (SD)

9. County/District Councillor report

Cllr Mocatta's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and can be found on the Parish Council website.

Cutting telephone landlines by 2025, it was agreed that the Parish Council would support Cllr Mocatta's plans to consult East Meon residents regarding the efficiency of mobile phone services and broadband in their homes. He would draft a paragraph to be displayed on the PC Facebook page, the PC website, and on posters in the village.

No report to give on the water butt scheme.

The wooden bus stop shelter outside the school was discussed. As this is now unused by the school bus service it was agreed that the shelter should be removed.

(TTD)

10. Planning - Report by Chairman of the Planning Committee to include the Penny Mile development.

Cllr Ridgeon reported that 13 applications had been received, 9 for dwellings, 2 for trees and 2 for pop up campsites. All applications received no objections.

Penny Mile development

Works look to be nearing the end however the drainage following the storms had been an issue, SDNPA enforcement team reported that they were keeping track of it.

11. Finance

- a) Presentation of actual v budget for the current year
The RFO presented her report of actual cost against the budget for the current year, this was approved by Councillors.
- b) Approval of payments of invoices (14 November 2023– 15 January 2024)
The RFO reported on all payments between the dates of 14 November 2023 to the 15 January 2024. Councillors unanimously approved all payments.
- c) Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations
The Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations Policy were reviewed and approved by Councillors.
- d) Asset Register
The Asset Register was reviewed and approved by Councillors.

e) Standing Orders

The Standing Orders document was reviewed and approved by Councillors.

12. Any other business including correspondence of note.

Cllrs Hales asked for the EMCC cricket nets to be added to the agenda for discussion at the March meeting.

It was reported that a resident in Oxenbourne had enquired about the state of the road and the ridges that had formed along the edges. Cllr Atkinson agreed to investigate further.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20:40.

Signed:

Date: