



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
For East Meon Parish Council held via Zoom
At 7.00pm on Monday 25th April 2021**

Present: Parish Councillors including Cllr Susan Davenport (Chair), Suzie Brooker (Parish Clerk & RFO) Cllr Rob Mocatta and 21 Parishioners.

The Chair welcomed residents to the APA and hoped this would be the last time it would be held online. She confirmed that the Annual Parish Awards for 2020 and 2021 would be made in person on 15th August at the Village Celebration. The Chair thanked the Parish Clerk for all her work over the last year and a presentation of flowers was made. She also announced that the Clerk would be stepping down from her role and a replacement would be sought.

1. **Apologies for absence were received from:** Helen Galliano and Anella Parker-Martin
2. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (April 2019) had been circulated and posted on the Parish Council website. They were signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mr Alan Redpath and seconded by Mr Steve Ridgeon.
3. **The Chair's Report** had been posted on the Village and Parish Council websites and in the most recent edition of Meon Matters. The Chair thanked the Councillors for all their work during the past year. The Chair also thanked Chris Smith the Caretaker for the additional cleaning measures that had had to be put in place during the past year.

4. **Financial Report**

The Parish Clerked presented on Unaudited Accounts for year to 31st March 2021

Income

The precept was received as expected at £27,462. We received expected income from the allotments, Frogmore car park and the cricket club. A grant of £575 from EHDC facilitated by Cllr Mocatta was gratefully received. Unfortunately, Clanfield Football club had not renewed their agreement and therefore we incurred a loss of budgeted income of £1180. Actual income received was £29,457.71 against a budget of £30,112 therefore a deficit of £654.29.

Expenditure

Administration expenditure included the clerk's salary, caretaking costs, insurance, training, website and sundry expenses. This is over budget due to a replacement laptop, a new printer, an increase in caretaking hours, a replacement battery for the defibrillator and the unexpected cost of conducting meetings via Zoom.

Capital projects / improvements expenditure included the noticeboard refurbishment, painting of the white railings throughout the village, bench restoration, replacement gates and the dropped kerb by the bottle bank.

Donations – the council made a donation of £500 to All Saints Church for the maintenance of the churchyard and also a £30 donation to the Rosemary foundation.

The cost of maintaining the Parish Land covers grass cutting, mowing and the maintenance of trees and hedges. Last year Petersfield Town Council were contracted to cut the grass at the recreation ground, the football pitch and the Green. Although over budget, there has been a saving of £1000 on grass cutting from the previous year.

Play areas – Each year RoSPA carry out an inspection of both play areas and works were required to ensure continued safety of those using the equipment.

Subscriptions – the council are members of Hampshire Association of Local Councils and this year also renewed subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks.

The actual total expenditure was £31,015 against a budget of £30,810, a deficit of £205.

Summary of 2020/21

The opening balance on the 1st April 2020 was £19,256.87; the closing balance on the 31st March 2021 was £19,040.40. A VAT claim for £2068.14 is due which makes that Actual balance £21,108.54. These are very healthy reserves.

2021/2022

The budget for the current financial year of 2021/22 was set in November last year. The budgeted income is £32,469.

The Precept was agreed at £28,149 an increase of 2.5%. Additional income from allotments, Frogmore car park, the cricket club and the forecasted income from the rental of the Pavilion of £2,700.

The Parish Clerk was thanked for her report.

5. County Council & District Report

Councillor Mocatta reported that over the next 4 years Hampshire County Council would invest £740m for the benefit of residents. This would include £120m on roads; £140m on building improvements including schools; £100m on integrated transport schemes to encourage residents to walk or cycle rather than using cars. Both HCC and EHDC would spend money on climate change projects and pilot schemes.

Cllr Mocatta reported the largest expenditure was on social services, however he confirmed that very few issues with the service had been reported from East Meon. The next biggest expenditure was on schools; there had been no issues with East Meon, but the main concern had been parking. The biggest concerns that Cllr Mocatta is contacted about are roads,

speeding and traffic. Cllr Mocatta reported that HCC are working with SDNP to resolve issues concerning BOATs.

Questions to Cllr Mocatta

- A resident asked about the sewerage treatment centre and how it would be managed when the number of households increase and also expressed concern about pollutants in the river. Cllr Mocatta reported that the sewerage network does not have enough capacity to cope with heavy rainfall and the waste created. He confirmed that the Parish Council and residents had complained to Southern Water about the issue and added that with more houses being built everyone will need to continue to keep up the pressure for any action to be taken.
- A resident asked about the recycling capacity as it seemed very restricted as to what can be recycled. Cllr Mocatta reported that EHDC would wait to hear the Government's plans for kerbside recycling before upgrading any recycling sites, but it was likely that a lot more items would be recycled in the future.
- A resident raised concern about the edge of the roads which had not been repaired and were damaging car tyres. Cllr Mocatta confirmed they are aware of this issue and would be looked at.
- A resident highlighted an issue with excess water flowing onto the road on the bend by the school. Cllr Mocatta would report the issue to HCC and Southern Water.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mocatta for all his hard work and support.

6. Parish Forum

The Chair opened the meeting to residents to ask questions. There were no questions.

At 7.45pm the Chair introduced the Guest Speaker and the formal part of the meeting was closed.