



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held via Zoom on
Monday 20 July 2020 at 1830**

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

District & County Councillor Rob Mocatta, Suzie Brooker, Parish Clerk & two residents

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Matt Atkinson & Cllr Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake

2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

No declarations received

3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting on the 18 May 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 Steve Ridgeon and seconded by Cllr David Cooke and duly signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on the 18 May 2020

a) Speeding & speed reduction signs, traffic and double yellow lines

The Parish Clerk reported that Cllr Matt Atkinson would review the location for the speed reduction sign at the Langrish entrance to the village. He was concerned the sign would protrude into the road and could be damaged by large vehicles. The sign was currently at the Clanfield entrance and required a new battery. The Parish Clerk informed the Council that Cllr Atkinson had erected a "Don't Follow Sat Nav" sign at the entrance to Workhouse Lane. There were no updates about repainting the double yellow lines.

The Chair reported on the issue of speeding through the village by vehicles and cyclists who were exceeding the 30mph and raised concern that the speed limit was too high. The Chair informed the Council that she had been in contact with the police and had investigated setting up a volunteer Speed Watch Group to monitor the speed of vehicles.

Cllr Ridgeon reported he had been in contact with Steep and Sheet Parish Councils about their speeding issues and that there was a 4-step process:-

Step 1 – Gathering the facts - a traffic count which would cost in the region of £300 per site.

Step 2 – Speed Watch– operated by community volunteers

Step 3 - Road Improvements – narrowing roads and making them less viable for speeding

Step 4 – Ascertaining how to limit access for large vehicles on certain roads

Kevin Davies, a local resident who had already contacted the Parish Council about the issue of speeding through the village argued that the current 30mph limit should be reduced to 20mph.

Cllr Mocatta reported that it was a big issue in villages throughout EHDC and indeed nationwide.

The Chair would update Cllr Atkinson and would liaise with Cllr Mocatta to organise a group to pursue the issue.

b) Stiles

The Parish Clerk reported that Cllr Atkinson had contacted Hampshire Countryside Service and that due to the current Covid-19 situation it was unlikely that a grant would now be available for stiles. Cllr Mocatta confirmed he would be agreeable to fund stiles and speeding projects. The Chair would ask Cllr Atkinson to contact him.

c) Noticeboards

Cllr Marc Atkinson reported the noticeboard was now at the Forge in Petersfield and they hoped to carry out the modification work within the next 2 months. The total cost of repair would be approximately £800. The Parish Council agreed to the refurbishment of the existing noticeboard. Proposed by Cllr Charles Ritchie and seconded by Cllr Andrew Hales.

d) Village Hall & Pavilion

The Chair reported she had been in contact with a Sports Therapist who had expressed interest in renting the girls changing area in the Pavilion initially for a 3 month period with a view to extending the lease and maybe increasing the area. The Councillors agreed they would be happy for the Chair to continue the discussions.

e) Bridleways, Fiveways & Limekiln Lane

The Chair reported that all routes had been open since the beginning of July and that she had been in contact with Hampshire Countryside Service. Bikers continue to use the routes and the Chair asked Councillors to take photographic evidence of damage to the tracks by bikes and to send as much information as possible to her.

f) Grass Cutting

The Chair reported there had been positive feedback about the grass cutting by PTC. Cllr Ritchie requested they cut by the entrance signs to the village. Cllr Hales reported the Cricket Club was happy with the grass cutting at the Recreation Ground and Cllr Hales and the Cricket Club would liaise with Cllr Tyrwhitt Drake.

g) Replacement Tree on Washer's Triangle

The Parish Clerk had been informed that the best time to plant the tree would now be in September.

h) Painting of railings

The Parish Clerk reported that Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake had instructed Ken Woodhouse to carry out the work.

i) Wild Flowers on Frogmore Verge Update & Weeds Policy and update on work of East Meon Nature

Cllr Atkinson reported on the proposed EMNG "Wilder Project" pilot scheme. All Cllrs had been forwarded details of the two proposals. Cllr Cooke recommended it would be advisable for all Cllrs to visit the proposed site prior to making a decision. The Councillors agreed to read through the proposal and visit the sites so the proposals could be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Ritchie had approached EMNG about the neglected area north of the Pavilion and had asked if they would put forward a proposal of how it could be managed. Debs Evans had agreed to put it on the agenda for their next meeting.

The Parish Clerk reported she had applied for a Cultivation Licence from HCC and this would make EMPC responsible for the management of the verge in Frogmore Lane.

7. Parish Matters

a) Coronavirus update

The Chair reported that the village continued to cope well. The Chair informed the Council that she and the Parish Clerk would be working on a Covid-19 Risk Assessment.

The Chair had been in discussion with the George Thompson, the Chair of the Village Hall Committee about a possible COVID-19 compliant Village Gathering in September with a bar, hog roast and music. Cllr Cooked raised concern about a conflict with the Cricket Club, however Cllr Hales confirmed the Club would not be organising a Village Party this year. Cllr Sillence suggested everyone bring their own drinks and picnic rather than running a bar.

The Councillors supported the general plan and agreed the Parish Council should contribute towards the cost, perhaps contributing towards the band. The Chair, George Thompson and Cllr Sillence would plan the event provided the Parish Clerk received confirmation from the insurance company that they would cover it.

b) Lengthsmen

Cllr Cooke reported the Lengthsmen had been busy in the village and had 9 hours left until April. The Lengthsmen had informed Cllr Cooke they would carry out additional work at £50 per hour if needed.

c) Litter

Cllr Ritchie reported that he was reviving the village litter picking group. Gloria Nixon, Clive Tillbrook and Marc Atkinson had volunteered to assist. He would liaise with Rob Mocatta if more kit were needed.

d) Anti-Social Behaviour and No Littering Signs

The Chair reported an increase in noise and litter around the village and had collected 50 bottles and cans in one weekend. The Chair informed the Council she had been in contact with the PCSO about the increase in anti-social behaviour and that many of those involved were not residents of the village. The Chair requested any incidents to be reported to 101.

Cllr Hales had researched anti-littering signs, but it was felt they would be taken down or ignored.

e) Frogmore Footbridge

The Chair reported the footbridge in Frogmore had been replaced with another concrete structure and the residents had asked if the Parish Council would agree and pay for it to be painted. All Councillors present agreed for the bridge to be repainted. Proposed by Cllr Ridgeon, seconded by Charles Ritchie.

f) Appointment of the new Caretaker

The Chair informed the Council that Andy Symes had resigned as Caretaker and thanked him for the dedicated way he had looked after the Pavilion for many years. Chris Smith had been appointed as the new Caretaker and would be responsible for the Pavilion and surrounding areas reporting to Cllr Ritchie and also the Play Areas reporting to Cllr Sillence.

g) Tree on the Green and offer of a resident to replace it

The Chair reported the tree in the middle of the Green looked unwell and a local resident had offered to replace it in memory of her late husband. Chris Brooker had recommended to wait and see if the tree revived before replacing it. The donated tree would either replace the existing tree or be planted elsewhere on the Green.

h) Bench on the Recreation Ground

Ian Bateman would repair the bench at a cost of £100.00.

i) Registering our pubs as Assets of Community Value

Cllr Hales informed the Council that both the pubs were listed in the Neighbourhood Plan as valued by the local community and felt it would be prudent to protect them further by registering them as Assets of Community Value to ensure that they continued as pubs for the foreseeable future. Cllr Hales would apply on behalf of the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Ridgeon and seconded by Cllr Sillence

8. County & District Councillor Report – Rob Mocatta

Cllr Mocatta reported there was a lot of information available on the EHDC and HCC websites for the community to view about help and grants available to deal with the Coronavirus epidemic.

9. Planning

Cllr Ridgeon reported there had been 12 planning applications; 7 dwellings, 3 trees and 2 farms. There had been one objection lodged.

Cllr Ridgeon informed the Council there had been a workshop on the Coombe Road site with SDNP and the developer. 50% of the dwellings should be affordable housing. Radian had been approached but were not interested. The developer would find an alternative housing association.

10. Open Forum

No residents were present

11. Finance

a) Presentation of actual v budget for the current year

The Parish Clerk had circulated the Yearly Comparison Summary to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Parish Clerk reported that between 13 May – 17 July 2020, 17 payments totalling £4380.98 had been made. All Councillors present approved the payments. Proposed by Cllr Cooke and seconded by Cllr Sillence.

b) HMRC & PAYE

The Parish Clerk confirmed that she had registered EMPC as an employer and that HMRC Basic PAYE tool would be used from August.

12. Any other business including correspondence of note

- Cllr Sillence reported the safety matting in front of the swings at the Recreation Ground needed replacing.

- Cllr Sillence reported the river was not flowing along The Cross towards the Church and would need to be looked at.
- The Parish Clerk informed the Council that a resident had reported fly tipping at their property to EHDC and wanted to make the Parish Council aware.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21.10