



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
For East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall
At 7.00pm on Monday 25th April 2022**

Present: Parish Councillors including Cllr Susan Davenport (Chair), Cllr Steven Ridgeon (Vice Chair), Cllr Andrew Hales, Cllr Charles Ritchie, Cllr Matt Atkinson, Cllr Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake, Cllr Sharon Sillence, Cllr Sarah Round, Sam Marchant (Parish Clerk & RFO) Cllr Rob Mocatta and 31 Parishioners.

The Chair welcomed residents to the APA.

1. **Apologies for absence were received from:** Mr David and Mrs Melanie Lewin, Mrs Diana Dudley-Williams, Mrs Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake, Mrs Libby Swayne and Mrs Olivia Farnell.
2. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (April 2021) had been circulated and posted on the Parish Council website. They were signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mr Brian Biggs and seconded by Cllr Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake.
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 also noted that it had been decided that there would be no Parish Award this year.

4. **Financial Report**

The Parish Clerk presented on Unaudited Accounts for year to 31st March 2022

Income

The precept had been received as expected at £28,149. Also received was the expected income from the Allotments and the Frogmore carpark. The Cricket club was a little under the budget due the agreement that the club will pay for actual costs for water, electricity and rates which came to the sum of £617.40.

Five Grants from EHDC had been gratefully received.

£420.83 – for the new Tennis Nets

£398.62 – for the Notice Board Refurbishments

£525.40 – for the Safety Matting for the Playground

£400 – for the Visitor sign in Workhouse Lane Car Park and

£500 – to go towards the new Speed Sign yet to be purchased.

There were also CIL monies of £2,500 received from the South Downs National Park, which must be used for projects within the community for the benefits of residents and must be used within 5 years.

She reported that in the summer last year Harvest Football Club had approached the Parish Council with the agreement in place for them to take over the grass cutting and general upkeep of the pitch and pavilion meaning a great saving of costs and the expected income

from match days of £1080, unfortunately due to matches being cancelled and a late start to their season the income has been lower than initially expected.

Actual income received was £34,884.20 against a budget of £32,469.00 therefore an excess of £2,415.20.

Expenditure

Administration expenditure included the Clerks salary, caretaking costs, insurance, training, website, and sundry expenses, this is under budget with no unexpected costs.

Allotments, there had been an unexpected large bill for Water for the Frogmore Allotments, which was due to a longer gap between meter readings.

Capital Projects and improvements expenditure included the Parish Council Noticeboard Refurbishment, the East Meon Nature Group Noticeboard refurbishments, the Hampshire County Council Traffic Count, the repair of the damaged post and chain surrounding the War Memorial, the repainting of a village sign and the Workhouse Lane Visitor Noticeboard. We are also looking to purchasing a new Speed Sign the council are just waiting to receive grant monies to go towards this. Due to many of these items being funded by grant money this section had come under budget.

Donations, the council had donated £500 to the All-Saints Church for the maintenance of the churchyard, £200 towards the Village Halls expenses in organising the Village Festival on 15th August 2021, £200 toward the Butser Home Start Little Steps group which unfortunately the group had to close, however the Parish Council decided to allow the Charity Organisation to keep this donation. The council have also agreed a £500 donation toward the Queens Jubilee Celebrations this year.

The cost of maintaining the Parish Land covers grass cutting, mowing and the maintenance of trees and hedges. Last year Petersfield Town Council continued to cut the grass at the Recreation Ground, the Football Pitch, and the Green. Chris Smith mows the smaller areas of the Parish Land. This came in under budget due to the Football pitch being left to meadow for the summer and Harvest Football club taking this over.

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 renewed the subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks.

The actual total expenditure had been £25,562.80 against a budget of £32,130.00 meaning a saving of £6,567.40.

Summary of 2021/22

The opening balance on the 1st April 2021 had been £19,039.95 and the closing balance on the 31st of March 2022 was £28,698.68, along with a VAT claim for £1,731.46 which is also due for this year, which I believe are very healthy reserves.

2022/2023 Budget

The budget for the current financial year of 2022 to 2023 which was set in November 2021 was set at £31,492.73.

After following guidance from the internal auditor and the predicted rise in costs the RFO had made the recommendation that the precept should increase by 2.5% to £28,852.73. In addition, there is the income from the Allotments, Frogmore Car Park, the Cricket Club and the forecasted income from Harvest Football Club.

The budgeted expenditure had been set at £30,560.00 which will include Capital Projects and Improvements such as a new Speed Sign.

5. County Council & District Report

Councillor Mocatta reported that the waste collection in the area had been working well with very few complaints regarding missed bins.

Plans for average speed cameras to be installed along the A272 within the next 6 months. This is to target the speeding of motorbikes. Also, there is an investigation to see whether speed limits should be brought down in villages to 20mph.

With regards to BOATs, discussions had been taking place to ban 4x4s and motorbikes from using all BOATs in the area, and there are hopes South Downs National Park can be persuaded to work with Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Mocatta reported that recent discussions with Hampshire County Council had been dominated by money for social services for the aging population and childhood needs.

He also said he felt content that school allocation within the area had been a success due to having no complaints.

Questions to Cllr Mocatta

A resident highlighted that the former government had brought in BOATs for all traffic within Hampshire, Cllr Mocatta confirmed this and agreed it had been a frustrating outcome.

Mr Brian Biggs asked regarding fly tipping in and around East Meon whether Cllr Mocatta could inform the costs incurred by clearing fly tipped rubbish as opposed to responsibly tipped rubbish at a local recycling center. Cllr Mocatta answered that it was hard to tell as if rubbish is fly tipped on Private Land it would be up to the Landowner to dispose of this whereas on Public Land the responsibility falls to the Council. Typically Hampshire County Council have not recorded an increase in volume of fly tipping however fly tipping on Private land would not be

included in their statistics and measures had been taken to make recycling center as simple as possible to use with a new booking system.

6. Parish Forum

The Chair opened the meeting to residents to ask questions.

Sir Alistair Dudley-Williams asked whether the grass on the Green could be cut before May Day on the 2nd May ready for the festival. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake informed that he would welcome emails regarding the grass cutting in the village and would ask Petersfield Town Council if this could be done in time for Monday 2nd.

Sir Alistair Dudley-Williams also wanted to discuss the trouble which had been happening at the Sports Pavilion, and how much time he and Cllr Ritchie had spent clearing up broken glass, he also reported that some items had been stolen from the front of his premises on Easter Sunday. Sir Dudley- Williams asked whether the cameras there could be put back into working order. Cllr Davenport confirmed she is now aware of these issues and sorry that this has been happening. She had also been in contact with the PCSO Amy Toogood but told their services were so stretched they are unable to patrol regularly. She said the Parish Council would relook into having security cameras, but they are not necessarily the answer.

Mrs Margaret Williams asked whether some sort of barrier could be installed on the footpath from Frogmore Lane onto the Recreation Ground as she had concerns regarding children and dogs running out into the road. Cllr Davenport put forward Cllr Atkinson to investigate having a gate or bars installed however this must remain push chair usable.

Mrs Kerry Maguire wanted to thank the East Hampshire District Council for the insulation in houses scheme in which she had benefited from.

Mrs Sue Zirps asked whether there could be plans for more activities for the younger residents. Cllr Davenport advised that Harvest Football Club had expressed plans for a children's football team.

At 7:45pm the Chair introduced the Guest Speaker, and the formal part of the meeting was closed.