

**Parish Council Meeting
Held at East Meon Village Hall on
Monday 20 November 2023**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Charles Ritchie (Vice Chair), Steven Ridgeon Matt Atkinson, David Cooke, Andrew Hales, Sharon Sillence, Sarah Round, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake
Sam Marchant (PC), and 3 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Mocatta.

2. To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest

None were declared.

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 18 September 2023. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read.

Proposed by Cllr Cooke and seconded by Cllr Atkinson and duly signed as a true and correct record.

4. Open Forum

A resident spoke about the inconsistency of the grass cutting on The Green and asked whether this could be addressed. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake confirmed that he would speak with the contractor and also look to source quotations from local companies for a comparison for the next meeting in January. (TTD/CR)

The resident also asked whether the Glebe hedge could be cut, Cllr Atkinson informed Councillors that it had been too wet to cut recently and that once it got drier, he would complete the job. (MA)

The Penny Mile development was discussed, concerns were raised over the ditch full of water at the front of the site and possible problems over residents' parking once the development was complete. The Chair said that she along with Cllr Ridgeon had been reporting these matters to SDNPA and Hampshire Highways however neither had considered them to be an issue. The Chair confirmed that she would continue to liaise with the developer and report problems to SDNPA as they arose. (SD/SR)

The resident also wanted to thank Cllr Ritchie for organising the pumping out of the drains in the village as this had made a huge difference to the amount of standing water. (CR)

It was reported that road works contractors had left their signs on the right hand side of the East Meon Road heading to Langrish, Cllr Atkinson agreed to contact Hampshire Highways to have these cleared. (MA)

The water running down Coombe Road corner which had damaged the road again was discussed and the Chair agreed to report this to Hampshire Highways. (SD)

A resident raised concerns about the new signs which had been installed on sites around East Meon and asked whether the fingerpost in the centre of the village at the war memorial would be staying. Cllr Atkinson informed Councillors that the new signs had been part of the traffic calming measures agreed with Hampshire Highways and that there were no plans for the removal of the signpost at the war memorial. (MA)

5. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting on 18 September 2023

a. Remembrance Sunday (SD)

The Chair was pleased to report that there had been 120 people who attended the church service for Remembrance Sunday and another 50+ people who had joined them for the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial with a large proportion going on to enjoy the refreshments at the Village Hall. (SD)

b. Progress report on sewage leaks in Workhouse Lane (SD)

The Chair informed Councillors that unfortunately the works that had been promised in the meeting with Southern Water in July such as the CCTV inspection and jetting of the pipe had not been carried out. She did however want to thank Mike Critchley who had been diligently recording levels and taking photographs of the sewage surfacing in Workhouse Lane and sending these daily to Southern Water. She stated that an EIR, a request for information, had been submitted to Southern Water for clarification and that she would continue to push the company to act. (SD)

c. King Charles III Coronation Plaque (SD)

The Chair reported that the preparation of the King Charles III Coronation Plaque had been delayed but should be ready for early January to mid-February. (SD)

d. Path across The Green (TTD)

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported that he had accepted the quotation from Neil Hunt for the wider path across The Green and that the works would start when the weather was more suitable in the spring. (TTD)

e. Tree survey report (SRound)

Cllr Round reported that she had spoken to the Tree Warden and had reported the trees that needed work to the relevant organisations responsible for them to action.

She also confirmed that she would get two quotations for the remaining tree for which the Parish Council is responsible. (SRound)

f. Lengthsman (DC)

Cllr Cooke reported that he had spoken with the Lengthsman and had detailed the works waiting to be done. (DC)

g. All Sports Pavilion report (CR)

Cllr Ritchie reported there were no issues and that Harvest Football Club had now officially moved out. (CR)

h. Harvest FC/Football Team report (CR)

Cllr Ritchie informed Councillors that two separate teams had approached the Parish Council wishing to use the football ground. One is a veteran team currently playing in Alton and looking for next year's season. The second is a Petersfield under 18s team and would like to use the pitch for this season. He said that he and Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake would continue to investigate grass cutting costs for a more competitive rate to pass onto the teams. It was concluded that it would be better to have the football pitch in use and kept usable as long it was not running at a loss. (CR)

i. EMNG/Environmental report (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon informed Councillors that the four volunteers had undertaken the Riverfly training which had been funded by the Parish Council. He said that once the volunteers had identified a suitable site at a position along the river within the village, monitoring could then begin.

With regards to TWiG's activities, the team had been looking at a year-round maintenance plan for the hedge planted this year, to ensure it would continue to thrive. They were also investigating future tree planting site options before seeking approval from the Parish Council.

Lastly the Nature Group had begun recruiting volunteers for the Toads on the Roads to take place in a couple of months time.

The Chair reported that SNDPA volunteer rangers had spent a day clearing the river along the High Street and were planning to return for another day, she wanted to thank the team for doing a great job especially in the appalling weather. (SR)

j. Footpaths and BOATs report (SD)

The Chair reported that Brian Biggs had produced an excellent autumn report, which had been sent to Hampshire County Council and SDNPA. She also informed Councillors that she would be speaking at a Hampshire County Council meeting

later in the month when they were reviewing their BOATS management policy.
(SD)

k. CIL money projects working party report (AH)

Cllr Hales informed Councillors that once the SDNPA meeting on 6 December to discuss the National Parks future plans had taken place the working party would then be ready to report on projects. A full report can be expected at the next Parish Council meeting in January.
(AH)

l. D-Day 80 – 6 June 2024 (SD)

The Chair reported that she had discussed the event with David Pepper, Chair of the Village Hall. They felt that a relatively low-key commemoration would be best to include the ringing of the church bells, the lighting of a beacon on Park Hill, and Mike Critchley giving a talk on the D Day Landings.
(SD)

6. Parish Matters

a. Representatives to attend EHAPTC meeting (SD)

The Chair outlined the work of EHAPTC (East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils) and emphasised how important it was for delegates from Parish Councils to come together to discuss common issues. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake volunteered for the role of East Meon Parish Council representative.
(TTD)

b. All Sports booking system

The Parish Clerk informed Councillors that the current booking system Skedda, used for the All Sports Court, would be charged for as of January next year. David Pepper had suggested creating a booking page and she asked for Councillors thoughts on this. It was agreed to stop using Skedda and investigate a new page further.

A resident asked whether the use of roller blades and bikes should be banned on the new surface of the All Sports Court, Cllr Round agreed to contact the resurfacing company for advice on this.
(SRound)

c. New tree warden (SD)

The Chair reported that the Tree Warden, John Mackinley, had informed her that sadly he had to resign and that Richard Dampney had kindly agreed to take on the role. She asked for the Parish Council's appreciation for all of John Mackinlay's work with the trees in the parish to be noted.

d. The Green grass cutting for 2024/25 (TTD/CR)

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting and actions agreed as above.
(TTD/CR)

e. Frogmore Bridge (TTD/CR)

Cllr Ritchie explained that residents of Frogmore had asked whether the sides of the bridge could be painted and for a non-slip paint to be applied

to the surface. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake informed Councillors that the advice he had received from two painters had been that the paint would flake off and would be a waste of time and funds. It was agreed that no further works would be carried out on the bridge and for Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake to inform residents of this decision. (TTD)

f. EMCC request for funds (AH)

Cllr Hales informed Cllrs that the East Meon Cricket Club had enquired whether they could apply for funds from the Parish Council to replace the practice nets at the Recreation Ground. He had no costings at present, but it was believed to be in the region of £6000. Following discussion Cllr Hales agreed to liaise with the Cricket Club and direct them to any possible sports grants with Cllr Round to assist. (AH/SRound)

g. Oxenbourne Residents (MA)

Cllr Atkinson informed Cllrs that a resident from Oxenbourne had contacted him to ask for permission and funds to plant spring bulbs on the Godscake in Oxenbourne. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay the amount of £78 for the bulbs and that the planting could go ahead.

The replacement of Toad Watch signs was then discussed, and it was agreed that Cllr Atkinson should contact Hampshire County Council about this request. (MA)

h. Bus Stop (RM)

Due to Cllr Mocatta not being at the meeting this item would be deferred to the January meeting. (RM)

i. Recycling (SD)

The Chair referred to the advice leaflet produced by Hambledon circulated prior to the meeting and asked whether Councillors could think of anyone who might be willing to head up a recycling campaign in East Meon. It was agreed that the position of Recycling Warden should be advertised in the Meon Matters. To follow up at the next meeting.

(SS/AH)

j. Winter Litter Pick (SS)

Cllr Sillence confirmed that she would be organising the next litter pick for February. She would publicise the day on Facebook and was planning to offer refreshments for volunteers. (SS)

k. Christmas Tree (SS)

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake confirmed that the Bereleigh Estate was happy once again to provide a Christmas tree for the Washers Triangle. Cllr Sillence offered to organise the decorations. (TTD/SS)

I. PC Whatsapp group

The Parish Clerk asked Councillors for their thoughts for a EMPC Whatsapp group to help with communications. All Councillors agreed, with the PC to organise. (PC)

7. County/District Councillor report

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

8. Planning

a. Report by Chairman of the Planning Committee to include the Penny Mile development and defibrillator.

Cllr Ridgeon reported that there had been eight planning applications, five for dwellings and three for trees. One application of note was for non-material changes to the 13 unbuilt houses at Leydene (Droxfield Road). No objection had been submitted for all.

Two appeals had been made recently.

One for a non-determination of an application to convert an equestrian building into a detached dwelling at Hazledene Barn (on the Winchester Rd). The Parish Council had objected to this application and that will be passed to the inspector.

Another for the refusal of a retrospective application to construct an equestrian gallop in a field in Oxenbourne. The Parish Council expressed concern at the removal of 2 sections of hedgerow, without mitigation, to allow access to the field; these comments would be passed to the inspector.

He would be attending the SNDPA meeting on the 6 December to discuss planning for housing allocation policies. Cllr Cook and Cllr Hales would also be attending this meeting as representatives of the Parish Council. He also reported that he had received positive feedback for the submitted Parish Priorities Statement.

His Penny Mile report had been covered earlier in the meeting.

9. 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 (12 September 2023– 13 November 2023)

The RFO reported on all payments between the dates of 12 September to the 13 November 2023. Councillors unanimously approved all payments.

c. Agreement of proposed Budget and Precept for 2024/25

The RFO presented the budget forecast for 2024/25 and proposed a 6% increase to the precept, calculated at £32,571.68 to cover expected expenditure increases. The 6% increase was approved by Councillors.

d. Recreation Trust grant

The RFO reported that the Recreation Trust Charity bank account was now up and running and asked Councillors for permission to transfer £900 from the Parish Council account to cover outgoings. It was agreed that the Cricket Club would continue to pay for water, electric and rates costs however as per the agreement these costs would be paid for at the end of each financial year in one lump sum. Councillors approved the sum of £900 to be transferred to the Recreation Trust Charity bank account. (RFO)

10. Any other business including correspondence of note.

There was no other business to report.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:20

Signed:

Date: