



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
For East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall
At 7.00pm on Monday 29th April 2019**

Present: Parish Councillors including Cllr Susan Davenport (Chair), Sarah Cowrick (Responsible Finance Officer), Suzie Brooker (Proper Officer), Cllr Rob Mocatta and 57 Parishioners.

Apologies for absence were received from: Diana Dudley-Williams, Helen Shenton, Ardi & Sue Zirps, Richard and Joan Williams

The Chair thanked Cllrs Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake, Chris Pamplin and Dominic Carney for their hard work and dedication to the Parish Council and each was presented with a gift. All continuing and new Councillors introduced themselves. Cllr Cooke explained to the residents the Lengthsman scheme and the work carried out to date. Cllr Cooke requested residents contact him with suggestions of appropriate tasks.

The Chair updated residents on the Defibrillator and requested a show of hands of those who would be interested in attending training on how to operate it. There was a positive response and the Chair confirmed she would investigate the possibility of a training session in the Village Hall.

1. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (April 2018) had been circulated and posted on the Parish website. They were signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mr W Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by Mr A Dudley-Williams.
2. **Chair's Report** had been posted on the Village and Parish Council websites and in the Spring edition of Meon Matters.
3. **Financial Report**

East Meon Parish Council Financial Report on Unaudited accounts for year to 31st March 2019

Income

The Precept was received as expected. In addition to the expected fees for Allotments, Car Parking Facility at Frogmore, Cricket Club and Football Club the PC received a welcomed contribution relating to a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) of £3117 and another grant facilitated by Councillor Mocatta of £1000 from EHDC towards the cost of the speeding signs.

The outcome therefore was £4098.95 better than predicted and enabled the Parish Council to fund improvements detailed later.

Expenditure

It is worth noting that the budget for the Year to 31st March 2019 was set in November 2017 and as always with budgets estimated costs are subject to change.

The red figures show an underestimated cost. Those of significance are detailed as follows:

- Pavilion Water related to an on-going issue with a leak at the property
- Play Area Maintenance went over budget due to remedial works required to ensure the continued safety of those using the equipment
- The Cost of the Proper Officer was inflated due to an overlap at the start of the year
- The Website was an unbudgeted cost which was and still is felt extremely worthwhile
- The Neighbourhood Plan costs were covered by the Grant which is now complete

Other points of note relating to underspend included the reduction in grass cutting costs due to the dry season, subs, bank charges and sundry expenses.

Monies Gifted (Shown in Grants S137) £1236

-Meon matters £200

-Poppy Appeal £100

-Churchyard Maintenance Grant to PCC £500

-CAB Grant £400

-CPRE £36

Capital / Improvements - £3013.80

-Bench £625

-Signs £423.80

-Speed Signs £1735

-Gate on Recreation Ground £230

Overall a balanced budget with the Grants enabling the purchase of Improvements. Surplus Income over expenditure of £1538.41 against a budget of £327.00. When VAT reclaimed Cash Balance will be £24631.48, an increase on last year of £3529. Very healthy reserves.

Mrs Cowrick was thanked for her report.

4. **County Council & District Report** – to be added.

A resident raised concern over the drains and flooding in Church Street. Cllr Mocatta reported that Hampshire County Council believed they had solved the problem, the resident pointed out that the drains need to be unblocked on a regular basis. A resident raised concern that a consultation about the bus service had not been communicated well enough. RM would ensure the next consultation would be added to the Meon Matters website. The Chair thanked Cllr Mocatta for his support of the Parish.

5. The Pavilion & Village Hall

Cllr Ridgeon and George Thompson, Chair of the Village Hall Committee gave a presentation on possible future plans for the enhancement of the facilities at the Pavilion and Village Hall. Parishioners were asked for their views and a questionnaire was circulated for all residents to complete. A resident asked how funding and grants would work as the Village Hall and Pavilion are separate entities. George Thompson responded that he understood that EMPC did not wish to be involved with the running of the Village Hall and CIL funding would be allocated to the Parish Council which could then pass this to the Village Hall. Another resident commented that for VAT purposes it would be beneficial for payments to be made via the Parish Council. A resident commented that the Village Hall is well used and making more use of the Pavilion beyond just changing rooms for sport should be looked at.

6. Parish Forum

The Chair opened the meeting to the floor to ask questions:

Area by the Bottle Banks

A resident asked about the weeds on the gravel area next to the bottle banks. The Chair reported they were being dealt with. The same resident requested the lower limbs on the oak tree by the bottle banks be removed and also pointed out the fence rails by the bottle banks need repairing. The Chair acknowledged these requests and confirmed she would look into them. The resident also raised concerns about the quality of the grass cutting on The Green in preparation for the Country Fair and reported that the path had been scratched by grass cutting machinery. Cllr Marc Atkinson confirmed he would try to get the grass tidied up before Monday 6 May.

Bridleways

A resident raised concerns about motor bikes using bridleways and the damage caused. The Chair reported she has been in communication with Elliott Rowe from HCC about the issue. Cllr Mocatta suggested the Parish Council apply for a permanent ban on motorbikes as the damage prevents other users from enjoying the bridleway. A resident suggested it would help to gather photographic evidence and the Chair reported she had already provided numerous photographs.

Stiles

A resident reported the stiles at Small Down and Duncombe Wood were in a hazardous state. The Chair reported that progress was being made and Cllr Matt Atkinson added he would investigate who owned the stiles and updated the residents about the Miles without Stiles scheme.

Speeding

A resident reported major concerns about traffic speeding along the entry road from Clanfield and asked if other action could be taken in addition to the speed limiter signs. Cllr Carney reported that the speed limiter signs would be placed at that end of the village initially and the effect of the signs could be monitored once in place. A resident asked if a penalty fine could be enforced. Cllr Mocatta reported on the Speed Watch initiative where recorded data could be sent to the police, but pointed out that this scheme would be reliant on volunteers.

Pot Holes

A resident raised concern about the large pot hole at the bottom of the Vineyard. Cllr Mocatta confirmed he would request for the road to be repaired.

Double Yellow Lines

A resident asked about having double yellow lines on Church Road at the T-junction. The Chair reported that parking was one of the biggest issues in the village and added the Council preferred to avoid having more yellow lines. The Chair would speak to Reverend Jane Ball and ask her to mention the problem of parking on the junction in the Pew News.

Workhouse Lane Allotments

A resident commented that members of the general public were utilising the allotment as a toilet facility.

7. Annual Parish Award

The Chair reported the Annual Parish Award had been awarded to the late Mrs Val Harfield at the end of last year. She added the Parish Council had unanimously agreed to an additional Annual Parish Award for the current year and Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake presented this to Mrs Rosemary Ryder.

At 8.20pm the Chair introduced the Guest Speaker and the formal part of the meeting was closed.