



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Church Hall on
Monday 16th September 2019 at 1830**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Steven Ridgeon (Vice Chair), David Cooke, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake, Matt Atkinson, Charles Ritchie, Andrew Hales, Marc Atkinson, Rob Mocatta

Suzie Brooker (PO) and three residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Sarah Cowrick (RFO) and Cllr Sharon Sillence

2. To receive any Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

No declarations received

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2019

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 Cooke and seconded by Cllr Hales and duly signed as a true record.

4. An informative presentation on Byways and BOATS was given by James Emmett, Area Access Manager from HCC Countryside Service Team. Mr Emmett responded to questions from Councillors and residents present. The Chair thanked Mr Emmett for attending the meeting and updating the Council on the current situation on the Byways and BOATS in East Meon.

5. Tree Planting

Cllr Ridgeon reported a resident had been in contact about a tree planting initiative concerned about the effects of Ash die back and climate change. The Chair reported she had attended a meeting with Debs Evans, Marc Atkinson and the Tree Warden with regard to setting up an environmental / biodiversity group. The group would be launched at the end of September following the Hedgehog talk. The Chair recommended the resident concerned arranged to meet with Debs Evans to discuss a possible initiative. SR

Cllr Mocatta reported that in response to the climate change emergency EHDC has pledged to plant 120,000 trees in the district, however the issue they face is finding suitable land. Approximately 500 acres are required to plant the trees provided by the Woodland Trust. The trees would be owned by the landowners, but paid for and installed by EHDC and volunteers. The Parish Council would be supportive in principle to the scheme.

6. Matters arising from the meeting on the 22nd July 2019

a) Play Areas

Cllr Sillence was not present at the meeting. The Chair reported that Cllr Sillence was looking at the repair of the football post on the all sports pitch. **SS**

b) Speed reductions, yellow lines & speeding

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported the speed sign would be erected shortly at the top of Templars Brow. Cllr Atkinson also reported that Hampshire Highways would reinstate the double yellow lines outside the school at some point.

Cllr Mocatta reported he had spoken with the resident in Temple Lane who was concerned about vehicular access and he recommended they write to the Parish Council outlining their concerns. **MJA**

c) Stiles

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported he and Cllr Davenport had walked around the village checking the stiles and confirmed they had identified several which should be replaced by self closing gates or kissing gates in Duncombe Wood and Frogmore. Cllr Atkinson would continue to research the grants available. **MJA**

d) Westbury House application to be added to the National Heritage List

Cllr Hales reported the submitted application to English Heritage had been turned down due to the building not meriting listing. Cllr Hales also reported the Gardens Trust were working on listing the garden as it had been designed by Charles Bridgeman. Cllr Hales had been in contact with SDNP and EHDC who were positive and supportive, but powerless to do anything about the building. Cllr Mocatta reported he had spoken to the planning department about the options and it was suggested that planning could possibly be granted for a few houses, but not the numbers sought on the owner's planning pre-application. Cllr Hales would write to the resident who was concerned about the building to update them on the current situation. **AH**

e) Noticeboards

Cllr Marc Atkinson reported on the various options available to repair or replace the noticeboards. A discussion ensued and MJA suggested that the noticeboard at Glenthorne should be removed and repaired with a side hinged opening mechanism as this would be a more economical option. The refurbished noticeboard would then replace the noticeboard

outside the village shop. Cllr Marc Atkinson would arrange to take the noticeboard to Goldburn Finishers. **MA**

f) Village Hall & Pavilion

Cllr Ridgeon reported he had been contacted by Chris Patterson from SDNP who could advise about the SDNP Partnership Management Plan which supports community led initiatives. Cllr Ridgeon and George Thompson would attend a meeting with Chris Patterson on 16 October to discuss the options to move the project forward. **SR**

g) Bridleways Fiveways & Limekiln Lane

The Chair reported that work would begin on Fiveways on Thursday 19 September. **SD**

h) Potholes

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported that Highways Maintenance were due to carry out work on the potholes and there was evidence of white line markings around the potholes, but no work had been carried out. Cllr Atkinson would follow this up with Hampshire Highways . **MJA**

i) Retaining wall at Glenthorne Meadows

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported he met with Ronnie Hunt who advised that there was no immediate danger of the wall falling down and would quote to repaint it. **MJA**

7. Parish Matters

a) Grass Cutting

Cllr Tywhitt-Drake reported he had received a quote from Petersfield Town Council for £200 + VAT per visit and he suggested approximately 15 visits. The quote was considerably cheaper than the current provider QLS. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake would speak to QLS to establish if they could match the price and if not the Parish Council agreed to go ahead with PTC. **TTD**

b) Keeping main routes free of weeds through the summer

The Chair reported she had met with Debs Evans who suggested a meeting with a weed consultant who could confirm which weeds were beneficial to encourage biodiversity. The Councillors were in agreement with this suggestion and the Chair would liaise with Debs Evans. **SD**

c) Replacement Tree on Washers Triangle

The PO reported that Chris Brooker had suggested three possible trees and that he would be happy to plant the new tree free of charge. Chris recommended that a protective fence be erected around the tree to protect it. The Councillors discussed the suggested trees and decided that a cherry tree would be the preferred choice. The Chair

thanked Chris Brooker for his assistance and confirmed she would update the resident who had agreed to pay for the tree.

d) Lengthsmen

Cllr Cook reported he had been in contact with the Lengthsmen and they had cleaned the storm drain by the Workhouse Lane car park and were finishing strimming the weeds by the river. The worklist had been updated and the PO would send this to Jenny Hollington.

DMC

e) Biodiversity Councillor

The Chair reported that Marc Atkinson was a key member of the village environmental group and could be the link person between the group and the Council. The Chair suggested the Parish Council have an environmental mission statement and she recommended that Cllrs looked at the Horndean Parish Council website. The Chair suggested the Council appoint Marc Atkinson as Biodiversity Cllr who would provide a link between the Council and the environmental group. The Parish Council would fully support the environmental group and their work. The Chair thanked Cllr Atkinson for taking on the role.

SD

f) Allotments

Cllr Cooke reported the allotments on the Workhouse Lane site were immaculate, however some of the Frogmore site allotments were in desperate need of work. Cllr Cooke would draft a letter to be sent out with the annual contract to remind allotment holders that they need to be kept tidy.

g) Parking on the High Street

The Chair reported she had been approached by a resident who had raised concerns about cars parking on the grass verge either side of the War Memorial as they were causing damage to the grass. The resident believed the cars parked on the grass were customers of Ye Olde George Inn. The Chair suggested installing posts and chains to prevent cars from parking on the grass. The Chair also suggested approaching the George Inn to ask if they could have a sign advising customers to park in the village car park. A discussion ensued and the Councillors agreed that posts with chains would be the most suitable option. Cllr Hales suggested a small blue parking sign and Cllr Ritichie would research the possibility of this.

SD/CR

h) The Forge

Cllr Ridgeon reported that the Forge five years ago was registered as an asset of community value which had now expired. SR informed the Councillors that the Parish Council could reapply for it to be re-registered which would allow the community the opportunity to buy the Forge if it came up for sale. George Bartlett had suggested to SR that the Parish Council might investigate submitting a request to list The Forge. However, further research suggested that English Heritage are focusing their resources

on buildings under threat, so it is unlikely that this application would be successful. Additionally, the current owner does not support such a listing because it would place restrictions on the building's capability to be a flexible business space. Cllr Ridgeon suggested the Parish Council do not apply for the listing and he would investigate registering the Forge as a community asset again.

8. County / District Councillor Report

Cllr Mocatta reported that the visitor centre and café at QECP had reopened and was a huge improvement and would attract a lot of visitors.

9. Planning

Cllr Ridgeon reported it had been a quiet time during the summer and there had been three planning applications all with no objection. Cllr Ridgeon also reported that on the 13th August a public planning committee meeting was held about the planned development south of Coombe Road. A presentation was given by the planning consultant and developer. The Parish Council's objective is that the developer complies with the Policies in, and the spirit of, the East Meon Neighbourhood Development Plan.

10. Open Forum

- A resident raised concerns about the potholes on Frogmore Lane and reported the road was in a dreadful state. Cllr Matt Atkinson would look into it and Cllr Ridgeon suggested reporting the potholes online and Cllr Marc Atkinson recommended the Fix My Street app.
- A resident reported that the Yew Tree on the footpath by the Frogmore allotments appeared to be dead at the top. The Chair requested that Chris Brooker look into it. SD
- A resident requested that the hedges in Frogmore car park and along Frogmore Lane be cut back. Cllr Matt Atkinson would look at the hedge along Frogmore Lane. MJA

11. Finance

The RFO was not present at the meeting due to personal circumstances and had been unable to produce her report in time for the meeting. The report would be forwarded to the Councillors in due course.

12. Any other business including correspondence of note

- The Chair reminded the Councillors that the defibrillator training would take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17 September.
- The Chair requested that the next meeting date be moved from the 18th November to the 11th November
- The Chair reported that Cllr Ritchie had been contacted about the rotting wooden posts on the village green. The Chair had spoken with Simon Hills who would provide a quote for the replacement of the bollards.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.40pm

Signed:

Date: