



**Parish Council Meeting  
Held at East Meon Village Hall on  
Monday 24 July 2023**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Charles Ritchie (Vice Chair), Steven Ridgeon, Matt Atkinson, David Cooke, Andrew Hales, Sarah Round, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake. Rob Mocatta, Sam Marchant (PC), and 2 members of the public attended.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Sharon Sillence.

**2. To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest**

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake declared that he had an ongoing planning application.

**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 15th May 2023. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read.

Proposed by Cllr Ridgeon and seconded by Cllr Hales and duly signed as a true and correct record.

**4. East Hampshire Parish Representative on the South Downs National Park election result**

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the votes collected from Cllrs via email were for Cllr Ridgeon as first choice and the candidate from East Tisted as second choice. Cllr Ridgeon was successful in the election and is the new representative for 25 parishes in East Hampshire.

The Chair congratulated Cllr Ridgeon on his new position.

**5. Open Forum**

A resident wanted to discuss a planning application on the land at Westbury. Cllr Ridgeon informed her that planning applications were considered in Planning Committee meetings not in Parish Council Meetings and that the meeting for this planning application had already taken place. He confirmed that the Planning Committee had objected to the application on a number of grounds and that the Committee's comments would be uploaded to the SDNPA website in the coming days.

**6. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting on 16 January 2023**

**a. Queens Jubilee Plaque (SD)**

The Chair reported that the plaque had been installed and referred to the photo in the accompanying report. Positive comments had been received and the tree looked to be doing well.

**b. All Sports Court (SRound)**

Cllr Round reported that the resurfacing work was complete and referred to the photo in the report, again positive comments had been received.

**c. All Sports Pavilion Update (CR)**

Cllr Ritchie informed Cllrs that progress had been made with the internal repairs of the Sports Pavilion, with internal partitions, tiling and part of the floor replaced so far, all of which had been covered by the insurance claim. He added that four wasp nests had been treated and that the temporary storage was set to be removed within the next fortnight. (CR)

**d. Harvest FC (CR)**

Cllr Ritchie informed Cllrs that the Harvest Youth team had played their first match with another booked for 28th July. The same match fees apply, however, while works are being done on the Sports Pavilion 50% of these would go to the Village Hall for toilet and changing room hire. Harvest FC had not yet given fixture dates for the coming season. Football nets had been installed, whilst out of season, for residents to use. (CR)

**e. Progress Report on Sewage Leaks in Workhouse Lane (SD)**

The Chair was pleased to report that she along with Cllr Ridgeon and select residents from the affected area had met with representatives from Southern Water. The problem sites where sewage had been bubbling up from drains had been viewed and everyone had then gone to the Church Hall to discuss matters in detail. Southern Water concluded that the issues could either be as a result of excess surface water in the winter months, or rising ground water levels or a combination of the two. Southern Water had agreed to do further tests to check the condition of the pipes. They emphasised that fat, oil and grease (FOG) in the system caused major blockages. Earlier in the spring, prior to jetting the main sewer, they had recorded that near the water treatment plant it was restricted to 20% capacity as a result of FOG and that educating residents on what not to put down household drains would help. Southern Water plans going forward are to look into individual issues in residents' gardens and homes, produce an information leaflet for distribution in the parish together with free fat containers etc and use CCTV to inspect the main pipe along Workhouse Lane to the treatment plant and then if necessary, jet it in October before the heavy rainfall begins with potentially inspections and jetting twice a year. (SD)

**f. CIL money projects working party report**

Cllr Hales reported that he along with Cllr Ridgeon had met with Chris Paterson from South Downs National Park to discuss potential CIL projects and the possibility of getting additional funds from South Downs National Park CIL monies fund. He informed councillors that projects related to climate, nature and park access were likely to be considered as priority. Potential projects were to be looked at again with a report when progress had been made.

Cllr Mocatta stated that EHDC funding could be applied for also. (AH)

**g. Potential Grants report (SRound)**

Cllr Round reported that the funding application for EHDC CIL monies and SDNPA CIL monies for the resurfacing of the All Sports Court had been unsuccessful and that more funding could be available later in the year if there was a project in mind. (SRound)

**h. Lengthsman (DC)**

Cllr Cooke reported that he had had issues with contacting the Lengthsman in recent weeks, however some jobs had been completed. He had added clearing the ditch near Workhouse Lane car park and replacing rotten fencing at the Football pitch and All Sports Court to the job list. (DC)

**i. Painting of Frogmore Bridge and railings (TTD)**

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake informed Cllrs that he had had some interest from painters and would be getting quotes to be discussed at the next meeting in September. Cllr Mocatta also suggested that Russell Cleaver, who runs the Hampshire Monday GROUP of volunteers might be able to help.

(TTD)

**j. EMNG/Environmental Report (SR)**

Cllr Ridgeon reported that the EMNG had requested feedback from the Parish Council regarding the Wildflower Garden next to the All Sports Pavilion, Cllrs agreed that the garden looked to be doing well and that the insect life was impressive.

The Nature Group had also commented on the elm on the South Downs Way which looked to be showing signs of disease, this was to be reported to Elaina Whittaker-Slark.

Cllr Ridgeon informed Cllrs that the riverfly course dates were yet to be confirmed by Elaina Whittiaker Slark but that they now had enough volunteers to book the training.

(SR)

**k. Tree Survey (SR)**

Cllr Ridgeon informed Cllrs that the Ash Die Back Tree Survey had been completed and that twenty individual trees and five groups of trees within the village had been assessed together with one yew and an elm. In summary the survey showed that many of the trees look to be in fair condition, however there were ash trees needing urgent attention within the next three months.

The next step would be to inform owners or the relevant authority of their responsibility for the trees in question, Cllr Round put herself forward to do this.

The old Yew tree by the Frogmore Allotments was then discussed which was likely to be from the Civil War era. The tree is sited on Parish Council land, John Mackinlay had offered to arrange for the area around the tree to be cleared and for remedial works to be carried out. It was agreed that the tree should be registered with the Woodland Trusts ancient tree inventory. (SRound/SR)

#### **I. BOATs (SD)**

The Chair informed Cllrs that she had recently met with new the Chair of Langrish Parish Council, Debbie Luff, to discuss the 17 BOATs in the two parishes (11 in East Meon and 6 in Langrish). She reported that the general feeling was that Hampshire County Council should look to spend less on repairing BOATs and more on gates for winter closures and that there was frustration with action not being taken by Hampshire County Council and South Downs National Park. It was agreed that the winter closures with metal gates had improved the state of BOATs. (SD)

#### **7. Parish Matters**

##### **a. A272 Speed Cameras and motorbikes going through the village (SD)**

The Chair reported that she had attended an online meeting arranged by Russell Oppenheimer, to discuss the effect of the speed cameras recently installed on the A272. Various parishioners had been reporting that motorbikes were now diverting through East Meon and Langrish. It had been agreed by EHDC that the noise and speed of motorbikes would be monitored along this route. (SD)

##### **b. Path across The Green (SD)**

The Chair reported that a number of residents had asked whether the path across The Green could be made wider and flatter for better accessibility. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake agreed to investigate the project and the expected costs are to be reported at the next meeting in September. (TTD)

##### **c. King Charles III Coronation Plaque and School Time Capsule (SD)**

The Chair asked Cllrs whether following the Queen's Platinum Jubilee plaque being installed a plaque for the King's Coronation should be placed by the coronation commemorative oak too. Cllrs unanimously agreed to have a plaque with the wording to include His Majesty King Charles III with the date of the Coronation. An EHDC Cllr grant would be applied for from Cllr Mocatta.

It was also agreed that the school's time capsule would not be referred to in the wording of the plaque. (SD)

**d. Footpaths and BOATs Officer (SD)**

The Chair referred to the sample Langrish footpath and BOATs report circulated prior to the meeting and introduced the idea for a dedicated warden for East Meon regularly to walk footpaths and BOATs and produce a similar report. She reported that Brian Biggs had volunteered for this role and would in her view be an excellent choice. Cllrs unanimously agreed to the idea and requested that Brian Biggs be formally asked to take this on reporting to Cllr Atkinson for any actions needed. (SD)

**e. ROSPA Report (SRound)**

Cllr Round reported that the annual ROSPA inspections had been carried out and that low-risk issues had been highlighted. No action would be taken but timber issues would be monitored with a view to replacing some of the wood within the next five years. Reseeding of patches of ground on The Green would be actioned.

Recent maintenance had been carried out on the climbing frame on the Recreation Ground by R.J. Playground Services Ltd and pigeon spikes would be installed on the top of rails.

Cllr Round asked whether a tree could be planted behind the playground by the Village Hall due to it being exposed in the hotter months. Cllr Ridgeon agreed to refer this to the tree warden.

Annual ROASPA reports to be published on PC Facebook page and Website. (SRound/SR/PC)

**8. County/District Councillor report**

Cllr Mocatta referred to his report circulated prior to the meeting which can be found on the PC website.

He also wanted to draw attention to the HCC website where details can be found on items which can be recycled in Hampshire.

**9. Planning Report by Chairman of the Planning Committee**

Cllr Ridgeon reported that thirteen planning applications had been received, of these nine were for dwellings, two for trees and two as other. Included was one objection to development at Westbury Park with comments to be submitted.

Regarding the Priority Plan, Cllr Ridgeon and Cllr Hales had sought advice from Chris Paterson from SDNPA and would be holding an open session on 2nd September in the Village Hall to share plans with residents.

## **10. 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.

### **b. Approval of payments of invoices (10 May 2023– 17 July 2023)**

The RFO reported on all payments between the dates of 10th May to 17th July 2023. Councillors unanimously approved all payments.

## **11. Any other business including correspondence of note.**

The Chair asked Cllrs whether they were happy with the new format for the agenda and accompanying report, all agreed it worked well.

The Chair informed Cllrs that a collection had been organised for Nigel the long-standing village postman who is to retire on 12 August, residents can make donations at the Izaak Walton pub with a presentation of a gift to be arranged.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:30

Signed:

Dated: