

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
for East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall,
At 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 26 April 2017

Present: Parish Councillors, including Susan Davenport (Chair), District Councillor Robert Mocatta, 84 Parishioners and Sarah Cowlrick (Clerk)

The Councillors introduced themselves.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from: Cllr Ken Moon, Cllr Sharon Sillence, Dr & Mrs S Bussell, Mrs Diane Dudley-Williams, Mrs Marjorie Greenwood, Mr & Mrs Frank Moffat, Mr & Mrs Ron Patrick, Mrs Anella Parker-Martin and Mr Simon Slaughter.

2. Minutes of the last Parish Assembly (April 2016) had been circulated, and were signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mrs P Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by Mr A Dudley-Williams.

3. Chair's Report had been previously circulated in Meon Matters. It was shared this year between the outgoing Chair, Alan Redpath and the current Chair, Susan Davenport.

4. Financial Report

Parishioners were given a copy of the unaudited accounts for year to 31 March 2017. The Clerk gave an overview of the year to date reporting on a positive outcome for the year and highlighting those items which were over budget. The Clerk also advised that the total monies held included grant monies for future projects. The Clerk went on to present the Budget for the 2017/2018 year which was predicted in November 2016. The Clerk advised of the intention to produce a balanced budget for the 17/18 year and that she would be ensuring that tight fiscal control was maintained in view of several new projects.

The Chair gave a vote of thanks to Sarah Cowlrick for her works as Clerk and financial officer, her support to the Council and her patience in a difficult year.

5. County Council & District Reports

The Chair advised that Cllr Ken Moon was unable to attend but in his absence proposed a vote of thanks for his support over his term. District Councillor, Robert Mocatta addressed the meeting and advised that he had tried to attend all Parish Council meetings held in East Meon, Langrish and Buriton and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to raise any matters within his remit.

Cllr Mocatta encouraged those present to visit the "where I live" section on the EHDC website. He also highlighted the new stance by EHDC regarding litter dropping.

Finally Cllr Mocatta detailed the breakdown of grants that he had given totalling £4500 to local causes.

6. Annual Parish Award

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake presented Alan Redpath with the Parish Award which he graciously accepted and thanked his fellow Councillors during his term and the support of Sarah Cowrick as Clerk.

7. Open Forum

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

The River

Christoph Harwood said that it was very good to see the recent enhancements to the river but raised concern over future support. The Chair advised that the second stage took place earlier this month organized by the Wild Trout Trust assisted by SDNP volunteer rangers. Cllr Davenport went on to explain that the planting was not yet complete and both the Trout Trust and the South Downs Rangers would be coming back in September and again next year to work on the river and to give advice on how to maintain it.

George Thompson requested that the parish be kept informed of any future projects to allow further involvement from volunteers in the village, particularly those whose gardens back on to the river. The Chair advised that it was the Parish Council's intention to involve anyone who was interested and to keep everyone informed of progress.

Sue Zirps from Frogmore asked if consideration could be given to the same enhancements to the river in Frogmore. The Chair advised that she would ask the Trout Trust if this would be appropriate and possible and it will be tabled for the next Parish Council meeting.

Hedge on Recreation Ground

Susan Hull requested that the hedge on the Recreation Ground be cut annually.

Workhouse Lane Car Park

The Chair advised on positive news on the Workhouse Lane car park. The District Council would be taking on the Lease after a generous offer from Bereleigh Estate to rent it to EHDC for a peppercorn rent. The Parish Council would be responsible for maintenance but EHDC would be responsible for enforcement of parking regulations and insurance.

Bunny Pond

John Whitear requested that the drainage issue raised before at Bunny Pond be investigated. The Chair confirmed that this would be done.

Roads

Various issues regarding potholes including a serious one at Pidham Hill, were raised and the Chairman advised that although these problems were always pursued, the workload and budget of HCC was such that it often took a while to rectify.

Mr W Tyrwhitt-Drake raised concern over a hole in the road by The Old School which was causing erosion of the bank as a result of splashing water from cars. It was also damaging a tree planted by the Garden Club.

Alan Collett advised that it is worth reporting potholes via the HCC website as there may be a case for compensation from HCC in the event of damage to tyres etc. if the pothole had previously been reported.

The damage by a fallen tree to the railings at Drayton Farm was highlighted.

The Green

Mr A Dudley-Williams raised concern over the fading of the hatched lines which indicated the disabled car parking space on the Village Hall car park adjacent to The Green. The Chair advised that the matter would be raised with the Village Hall Committee. Furthermore, the re location of two posts to allow wheelchair access to The Green would be also be raised.

Mr A Dudley-Williams raised an issue regarding the erection of a Tree House in a tree on The Green which would be investigated by The Chair.

The Pavilion

It was noted with thanks that Mr Ken Woodhouse had dealt with a serious issue concerning drains at The Pavilion.

Parking

Mrs J Brown raised the issue of dangerous parking on the blind corner of Chapel Street. Various suggestions were made and it was agreed to put a note in Meon Matters about it to encourage people not to park there.

At 7.45 Cllr Mocatta introduced the Guest Speaker and the formal part of the meeting was closed.

Signed: Date :