



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Held at East Meon Church Hall on  
Monday 16 March 2020 at 1830**

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

Suzie Brooker (PO) and one resident.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Cllr Sharon Sillence, Cllr Marc Atkinson and Cllr Rob Mocatta

**2. To receive any Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest**

No declarations received

**3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 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 Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake, seconded by Cllr Steven Ridgeon and duly signed as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising from the Meeting held on the 16 March 2020**

**a) Play Areas**

Cllr Ritchie reported that the resistograph test had established the beam on the Multi-Play unit would need replacing. A new beam had been ordered and would arrive by the end of March. Once this had been fitted, all work on the play equipment would have been completed.

**b) Speed reduction signs and double yellow lines**

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported that the battery was now working and the speed reduction sign had been moved to the West Meon entrance to the village. It would remain in place until the middle of April and Cllr Atkinson would speak to the residents concerned before moving it to the Langrish entrance.

Cllr Atkinson reported that Hampshire Highways would come and look at the double yellow lines outside the school, however this would probably not be for a while.

Cllr Atkinson reported he had researched "Don't follow SatNav" signs but was concerned that it would be another sign to clutter the village. It was agreed to put the sign in place and monitor its effect.

**MJA**

**c) Stiles**

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported the initial application had been submitted to HCC Countryside Service however there was an issue with the stile specification. Cllr Hales recommended that Cllr Atkinson contact Andy Gattager from SDNP who might be able to advise about suitable stiles.

**MJA**

**d) Noticeboards**

In his absence, Cllr Marc Atkinson had submitted an update by email. The noticeboard would be restored by Goldburn Finishers to match the white East Meon village signs. The fabrication work would be carried out by The Forge in Petersfield and glazed by Leydene Glass. Dependent on the uncertainty of the Coronavirus, work would start during week commencing 23 March.

**MA**

**e) Village Hall & Pavilion**

Cllr Ridgeon reported that discussions continue about improvements to the facilities that the Village Hall and Pavilion can offer to the residents.

**SR**

**f) Bridleways Fiveways & Limekiln Lane**

The Chair reported that an extension to the Temporary Closure of Fiveways had been applied for. She had spoken with James Emmett and he thought the surface was settling down well and all five tracks should be open soon.

**SD**

**g) Grass Cutting**

Cllr Tyrwhitt Drake reported that PTC would start cutting the cricket pitch on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake would discuss the plan for the recreation ground in accordance with the Managing Land for Nature Vision Statement. The Councillors present agreed that Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake should liaise with Chris Smith about mowing the smaller areas of Parish land.

**TTD**

**h) Replacement Tree on Washer's Triangle**

The PO reported that Chris Brooker would be planting a new tree in the next few weeks.

**PO**

**i) VE Day Commemoration**

The Chair reported she had spoken to Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake who confirmed that a huge number of activities were planned and everything was in place. The Chair hoped that all Councillors would offer their assistance on the day.

**SD**

**j) Painting of railings**

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported he had received a second quotation from Nick Mayhew Saunders and he would now instruct the person with the lowest quote.

TTD

**5. Parish Matters**

**a) Lengthsmen**

Cllr Cooke reported there were four hours left until the end of March and these would be carried over to the next year. Cllr Cooke requested jobs for the Lengthsmen to carry out, two suggestions were cleaning the village entrance signs and hand cutting the hedge encroaching on the tennis court.

DMC

**b) Update on the Recreation Ground & Cricket Club**

Cllr Hales reported that there were two damaged benches which by default belong to the Parish Council and would need repairing. Cllr Hales also reported that he had been looking at the running costs of the Cricket Pavilion. He was concerned that the electricity bill was quite high but hoped it would be reduced by £100 next year. He explained that the water meter could not be found at the moment as it was hidden by undergrowth but was confident that Will Atkinson would locate it once the weather had improved. Castle Water bill in advance and it was hoped that once the meter had been read, the bill would be reduced.

Cllr Hales advised the Cllrs that clarification was needed about the insurance cover of the Pavilion and confirmed he would look into this.

AH

**c) Sewage in Workhouse Lane and the Allotments and Open Meeting 20 March 2020**

The Chair advised that the planned Open Meeting had been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Cllr Hales suggested it would be prudent to go ahead with a scaled down meeting to include Cllr Mocatta, the Chair and Cllr Cooke and to have an open meeting at a later date. The Chair would discuss this option with Cllr Mocatta.

The Chair reported that on 4<sup>th</sup> February sewage had come over the manhole covers in Workhouse Lane and also at the allotments and onto the hedge by the football field. Southern Water had reacted and found a large fat ball in the main sewer which had been removed. The Chair had spoken with Jason Masters from Southern Water who had confirmed that allotment holders could return but could not plant or harvest crops already in place. Allotment holders who had been affected would each receive £200 in compensation. The Chair informed the Cllrs that she was not happy to allow allotment holders to sow seeds or start planting until the Council had received assurances from Southern Water that it was safe to do so.

The Chair reported she had met with Clanfield Football Club and they had requested an extension into June and permission to play occasionally mid week and to have 4 games on some weekends so they could catch up on missed matches, all Cllrs were in agreement. They had also confirmed they would like to continue to use the pitch next year.

**SD**

**d) Update on the National Grid Consultation 11 February 2020**

The Chair reported she had attended the consultation session on 11th February and that work would commence in the Spring. She had been informed there would not be any powercuts or restrictions to the supply. There were no planned road closures and if footpaths had to close, the Council would be informed.

**SD**

**e) Update on Vinescapes Workshop on 6 March 2020 on vineyards in the SDNP**

Cllr Ridgeon reported that he and The Chair had attended a SDNP workshop on the increase of vineyards in the area now that we have increased temperatures as a result of climate change. There are 47 vineyards within the SDNP covering a total of 1000 acres. He explained that planning permission is not required to set up a vineyard. Cllr Ridgeon reported there had been mixed views from Parish Councils. Many were concerned about wineries and visitor centres being developed. Cllr Ridgeon would circulate a detailed report.

**SR**

**f) Managing Land for Nature Vision Statement**

Debs Evans and Nick Read-Beale from East Meon Nature presented their Vision Statement to the Parish Council, a developing idea which would evolve. It was suggested that signs and notices should be used so that residents would be aware of the plans. The Cllrs unanimously agreed to adopt the Vision Statement and to start to implement the ideas with immediate effect to create an environmentally friendly village.

**MA**

**g) Request from All Saints' Church for a contribution towards Churchyard maintenance**

The Chair reported that All Saints' Church had requested a donation towards the maintenance of the Churchyard which would benefit all members of the Parish. The Councillors agreed unanimously a donation of £500.

**SD**

**h) Annual Parish Assembly**

Assuming that the APA would still go ahead, the Chair requested all Cllrs to arrive at 6pm to set up the hall. Cllr Hales offered to organise the cheese and wine following the meeting.

**SD**

**6. County / District Councillor Report**

Cllr Mocatta was unable to stay for the meeting and would submit his report to the PO.

## **7. Planning**

Cllr Ridgeon reported there had been three planning applications, with one objection to an application for change of use of land in Mercury Lane from playing fields to equestrian use. A planning committee meeting had been held to discuss the application and comments would be submitted to the SDNP Planning Portal.

Cllr Ridgeon reported that SDNP has proposed working with the owner of Westbury House and the Parish Council to come up with a suitable planning solution for the site.

Cllr Ridgeon updated the Cllrs on the Coombe Road development .

## **8. Open Forum**

The resident present asked if the gates at the Frogmore allotment could be replaced and was concerned that the river was eroding the gate at the far end of the allotment. Cllr Cooke would look at the gates and liaise with the Lengthsmen.

## **9. Finance**

### **Report on the Financial Position to date for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Councillors were provided with reports for the year to date showing the actual position against the year's budget.

All Councillors were requested to ensure that any receipts or invoices were made out to East Meon Parish Council with the correct postal address, to enable VAT to be claimed back.

Councillors were asked to complete the correct expense form when claiming for reimbursement and the PO would circulate a copy.

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

- The Chair reported she had met with representatives from the East Meon Care Group to consider steps which could be taken to help the elderly and vulnerable in the village to cope with the Coronavirus restrictions. She confirmed that a designated number was available for villagers to phone if they were self isolating and required help with shopping or a call from a volunteer. East Meon shop had offered a delivery service to those unable to go out. A printed leaflet detailing the services available would be sent out with Meon Matters.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.54pm

Signed:

Date: