



**Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Village Hall on
Monday 13th September**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Steven Ridgeon (Vice Chair), Charles Ritchie, Matt Atkinson, David Cooke, Sharon Silence.

Sam Marchant (PC), Cllr Rob Mocatta. No members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received via email from both Cllr Hales and Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake.

The Chair reported that a resignation email had been received on Friday 10th September from Cllr Marc Atkinson. On behalf of the Parish Council the Chair expressed thanks and appreciation to Cllr Marc Atkinson for all the work he had done during his time on the Parish Council.

2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest Forms

The Chair reported that in an email to her Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reminded councillors that he currently had a planning application being processed.

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 5th July 2021. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read.

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

4. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting on 5th July 2021

a. Speed Reduction Sign and Yellow lines outside EM Primary School

The Chair reported that the yellow lines had been reinstated. Cllr Matt Atkinson said he had been researching speed reduction signs. Prices for different types of speed reduction signs such as the Thumbs Up and Smiley faced are around £1,400. These then need a battery pack priced at around £2,000. With regards to the current sign there had been courier problems, Cllr Matt Atkinson said he might need to go and pick it up himself from Fordingbridge. After discussion Cllrs decided once the current sign was back and working correctly the decision would be made whether another should be purchased. Cllr Matt Atkinson confirmed he believed there would be no cost for the repair. He will come back with more

precise prices for Thumbs Up/Smiley type speed signs and will send details to all Cllrs ahead of the next meeting in November. **MA**

b. Potholes/Water Leak in Coombe Road (MJA)

Cllr Atkinson reported the water leak in Coombe Road had been fixed.

c. Noticeboard (SD)

The Chair confirmed the renovation work had been completed and reported she had written to Jane Martin thanking her for dealing with the lettering.

d. Pavilion

The Chair proposed that the future of The Pavilion be considered when item L was being discussed.

e. Protection of the bridge and pavement opposite the Olde George Inn

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported via email that he had spoken with Ian Janes a while ago about vehicles clipping the curb, he had been told Hampshire Highways quoted several weeks wait for a response. Cllr Ritchie reported that there was a curb stone which had come loose which he had reported to Hampshire Highways. **TTD,CR**

f. Update on Fiveways and Limekiln Lane

The Chair reported that EHAPTC (East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils) had at its last meeting discussed BOATs. The chairman had agreed to write to the CEOs of HCC and the SDNPA on behalf of all the Parish Councils affected by motorbikes on BOATs requesting a permanent ban on motorised transport. The Chair reported that two Langrish residents had formed a pressure group "BEAM" (Byways Environmental Action Group) to assist EM and Langrish councils in pressing for permanent TROs on BAOTs in the 2 parishes. The aim is to create local interest in the issue and to make residents realise that they are not alone in wanting change. The group plans to engage with residents in other neighbouring parishes similarly affected. There is to be a meeting in Langrish open to interested residents of the two parishes (East Meon and Langrish) on the evening of 1st November. Cllr Davenport will be attending and encouraged the Cllrs to come along. Cllrs agreed that a letter to all SDNPA members should be delayed for the time being.

Cllr Moccata fully supported the initiative. **SD**

g. EMNG Update

Cllr Ridgeon reported that EMNG would like to continue monitoring the wildflower area next to the Pavilion. Many of the seeds sown earlier in the year have been successful and unwanted plants/weeds are being removed. The Parish Council agreed that the project should continue into next year.

A project has been set up, led by two EMNG members, to look at trees and hedgerows in the Parish to try to understand what possibilities there might be for EMNG to help and influence longer term improvements in this area. The first stage is very much fact finding, consultation and investigating available grants. The Chair noted that the Tree Warden is due to speak to the Parish Council about a longer-term vision for trees and tree cover in the village and requested that these two strands of activity are coordinated.

EMNG will be asking for volunteer 'toad patrollers' later in autumn/early winter, with a targeted start in mid-February.

h. Lengthsman

Cllr Cooke reported that Tom the Lengthsman had been covering 8 parishes, which means his visits to East Meon village are not as frequent. There are 30.5 remaining hours, to be used by the beginning of April. The Lengthsman has completed all but one task asked of him. The remaining task is to clear the ditch running along between The Green and Workhouse Lane. The Lengthsman did have a setback when he uncovered a wasp nest resulting in getting stung several times. Cllr Cooke had been happy with works carried out to date. The Chair highlighted the need for the ditch in question to be cleared before the weather turned for the worse. Cllr Cooke asked if Cllrs had any other tasks for the Lengthsman and the following were shared: Edging of the path across The Green to be cleared, Road and Village signs to be washed and cleared. Also, the sign by the war memorial needs repainting, Cllr Silence to ask Dave Wyatt for this to be carried out. **DC,SS**

i. Noticeboard for Car Park users

Cllr Richie reported a grant application had been send to SDNPA with the assistance of Cllr Ridgeon. Cllr Richie had been informed that he may not get an answer until October. The fund should cover 50% of the cost of the noticeboard. Cllr Ridgeon to check whether planning permission will be required. **CR,SR**

j. Update of Grant Applications

No update due to Cllr Marc Atkinsons resignation with immediate effect.

k. East Meon Festival (SD)

The Chair congratulated David Pepper and the Village Hall committee for the success of the East Meon Festival held in August, this attracted a turn out of

people and also allowed for the Parish Awards to be presented to Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake and The East Meon Care Group.

I. Football Pitch and Pavilion and Informal use of Pitch Policy

The Chair informed Cllrs that since the last meeting when the Informal Football Pitch and use of the Pavilion policy had been discussed she had received a serious application from a football team called Harvest FC. The Chair along with Cllr Ridgeon met with five members of the team to discuss the renting of the pitch and pavilion. It had been proposed that they would pay £60 per match to be played on Saturday afternoons, with the total rent cost of the football season being £1,080. As well as the rent the team members would like to maintain the pitch which would need to be approved by Hampshire Football Association. The team had agreed to carry out improvements including replacing the broken showers with new push start showers, repairing the decking veranda and painting the pavilion. The team predict costs of this excluding the drainage work for the pitch to be £4000 and including the drainage of the pitch £6000. The team have also calculated they will spend around £1,800 on grass cutting throughout the entire year.

The Chair highlighted the advantage of matches being on Saturday afternoons and the promise of car shares between the team members. Saturday afternoons has the benefit of being the time when there are fewer visitors to the village especially in the winter months. On the negative side as it is an adult team there could potentially be undesirable language. Some conditions to be included in the contract would be no parking allowed on Workhouse Lane for players and to keep noise to a minimum. Other advantages would be a serviceable pitch which East Meon residents would be free to use during the weekdays and perhaps in the future the introduction of a youth team involving children from the village. The Chair reported with regard to neighbouring residents 1 person was opposed to the idea however 5 others were in favour.

The Chair suggested a three-year lease to reflect the time and money the team would be investing into the project, but this would include the right to terminate if excessive bad language or other problems arose. Cllr Silence suggested the team could be asked to drive in from the West Meon end of Workhouse Lane. The Chair explained that the team had promptly drawn up a second draft and had taken on all suggestions that had been made on the previous proposal. Cllr Ritchie asked about cars being parked on the pitch when the village has events on The Green and the Chair confirmed this would be ok. The team have said they

will be looking into applying for a grant for drainage of the pitch. The Chair asked whether the Cllrs were happy for her to report back to the Harvest FC team that the concept had been agreed and the Reserves can begin playing as soon as possible. This was unanimously agreed by all Cllrs. The Chair will finalise the contract along with Cllr Ridgeon. The Chair confirmed the Parish Council will continue to cover the utility bills, rates, alarm, and insurance and The Parish Council will reserve the right to increase fees on the basis of these. Cllr Ridgeon agreed to withdraw planning permission for the Pavilions change of use. **SD,SR**

m. Second Defibrillator

The Chair updated the Cllrs that Clive and Jo Tillbrooks' team were making good progress. The Chair confirmed she had signed the BT contract and that the phone box should be added to the insurance when finalised. The Parish Council will not own the land, BT will continue to pay for the electric for lighting the defibrillator box and Clive Tillbrook will be providing CCTV to protect it as the box will be left unlocked. **SD**

n. Registration of the 2 village pubs as Assets of Community Value (AH/SD)

The Chair reported that both the Izaak Walton Pub and the Ye Olde George Inn had been accepted as Assets of Community Value. The Chair thanked all involved in obtaining this outcome.

5. Parish Matters

a. ROPSA Playground Inspection Report

Cllr Ritchie reported that the ROSPA inspection on the playgrounds in the village had been received and a number of improvements had been highlighted.

The picket fencing around the playground on The Green continues to be a low risk and as in previous years will remain.

Cllr Ritchie said he would be asking RJ Playground Services Ltd to quote to reglue and fill gaps in the wet pour surface at the Recreation Ground, tighten the hand and footholds on the climbing wall, fill the ditch under the Burma bridge and add cable ties to the bar above the swings to prevent bird fouling. **CR**

b. Litter/Waste Bins

Cllr Silence reported that EHCC have informed her that the village had enough bins and that adding more might encourage fly tipping. Cllr Rob Moccata added that the increase in visitors will affect the use of bins, these would then need

emptying however if there are no bins available most people would take their rubbish home. He believes the cost of emptying should be borne by the Parish Council. The Parish Council would need to contract a company to empty the bins if the Parish Council decide to supply extra in the future. Cllrs suggested relocating existing bins already supplied and emptied by EHDC, Cllr Rob Moccata didn't think this should be an issue providing they were reasonably accessible to be emptied on "relevant land". Cllr Silence and Cllr Ritchie to explore options of the Parish Council supplying bins and PTC emptying them under a contract. **SS,CR**

c. Home Start Butser Little Steps Baby and Toddler Group (SD)

The Chair outlined the new initiative from Sue croft, a resident in the village, to support local families on the Home Start Butser list. The group is also planning to include parenting classes. The Chair suggested the Parish Council make a donation of £200 to go towards the cost of hiring the hall which is £42 per week. All Cllrs unanimously agreed to donate this amount. **SD,SM**

d. New Flagpole and Flag

The Chair reported that Malcom Farrow a resident in the village who is a flag expert, had said the village flagpole was in need of replacing. There had been photos circulated of suggested new sites, the War Memorial, The Green and Washers Triangle. Cllr Silence expressed her opinion that the flagpole should stay at the heart of the village on Washers Triangle. The Chair is waiting for quotes but would like to have the flagpole installed in time for the Queens Jubilee next year. Cllrs concluded that they were happy with the concept, but it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to use Parish Council funds for this project. **SD**

e. Jubilee June 2022 (SD)

The Chair informed Cllrs that Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake will be organising an afternoon street party along the High Street on the Sunday of the Jubilee weekend. Other plans include a beacon being lit on Park Hill and a gathering with drinks to follow. Cllr Silence highlighted importance of ensuring the High Street is properly closed for the street party. **SD**

6. County/District Councillor report

Cllr Moccata reported that along with local MP Damian Hinds, EHDC is helping organise a local COP26 event. Lord Deben has been confirmed as the keynote speaker and will present the conclusions of three local panels. These have represented a range of residents, interest groups and businesses. The three areas have been: transport, buildings, and land use & agriculture. The event will take place at The Maltings, Alton on 8th October.

Councillor Grants: Each District Councillor gets a grant allocation of £4500, of which £1000 must be for environmental schemes. Cllr Mocatta confirmed he had over £3,000 still to award, so is looking for schemes to help fund.

Waste collections: The ongoing difficulties in crewing refuse collection vehicles continue nationally and locally and it seems unlikely there will be a quick solution. EHDC is continuing to operate Garden Waste collections, although because of the statutory and public health need to focus on refuse and recycling it is the first to be affected when there are staffing shortages. Garden Waste collections are currently running behind schedule in East Hampshire. Norse are providing short term additional resources, including weekend working, wherever possible to catch up with the delayed collections and are medium term resourcing improvements. EHDC has provided some additional resource to assist Norse with the catch up on outstanding bin delivery numbers and are hoping to see these numbers fall over the coming weeks. Residents are encouraged to continue to leave their bins in their usual collection place and to only log their missed bins via EHDC's website where only their bin has been missed after a collection has taken place.

Planning: EHDC is responsible for planning in its area outside the SDNP. All of the East Meon and Buriton ward is within the SDNP, so the relevant plan is the South Downs Local Plan. EHDC has announced that the site at Chawton Park Farm is the preferred large development site in the district. There is still considerable work to be done on the Local Plan and on getting it through the planning policy process.

Helping Afghan evacuees: Hampshire County Council is working with local partners including all District and Borough councils to assist Afghan families re-settle as part of the Government's Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy programme.

Several families have now been welcomed to the county and we want to ensure they have all the local information they need and are made to feel welcome.

Back to School: As pupils across the county return to school, plans are in place to keep COVID-19 risks to the absolute minimum. Good hygiene, frequent hand washing, and using twice weekly Lateral Flow tests for eligible pupils is encouraged.

- Parents or carer of 16 -17-year-olds, are encouraged to them to take up the vaccine
- Bubbles in schools and the requirement for wearing face coverings in school are no longer in place (though they are still recommended on public transport to school)
- Activities such as singing and brass bands are back
- Under-18s no longer have to isolate if in contact with a Covid positive individual but anyone who is unwell, with or without Covid symptoms, should stay at home
- 12-15-year-olds 15 with underlying health conditions or who live with someone that is clinically vulnerable can also be vaccinated.

- Pilot to begin for Active 'School Streets': A trial scheme is underway in the county to create a healthier and safer environment for young people walking and cycling to school. It will create low traffic areas at the start and end of the school day by closing selected roads close to schools to all non-essential traffic. Residents, businesses, and the school community will be surveyed, and traffic volumes monitored. This will inform the decisions about potential future permanent School Streets schemes in Hampshire.
Tougher legal action on fly-tippers: Hampshire County Council and their local authority partners have joined over 150 other local authorities and 10 professional bodies to call for the Sentencing Council to consider tougher fines and sentences for fly-tipping offenders.
More information about fly-tipping, including advice on how to report it, can be found on Hampshire County Council waste and recycling webpages.

7. Planning

Cllr Ridgeon reported that there were 11 planning applications received since the last meeting (8 dwellings, 1 tree, 1 farm-related and 1 'other'). All were 'no objection' and for 5 we made comments such as requests for conditions etc.

A) revised application has been submitted for the Neighbourhood Plan Site south of Coombe Road. The Parish Council response (very similar to the comments submitted to the previous application) can be seen on the SDNPA planning portal. The planning application for the Neighbourhood Plan site near Garston Farm is continuing to progress.

No news on Westbury House. There is some concern that land nearby (not connected to Westbury House) is being sold off in parcels and so EHDC Enforcement has issued an article 4 notice for the relevant land. Councillor Mocatta explained some details of the complex situation.

b) The Planning Committee will be starting the 5-year review of our Neighbourhood Plan, working with SDNPA. The objective is a light-touch review, with the emphasis on ensuring that we deliver against the policies in the existing plan.

8. Open Forum

No Questions

9. Finance

The RFO reported on all payments between the dates of 23rd of June to the 22nd August. Councillors unanimously approve all payments. Proposed by Cllr Silence and seconded by Cllr Ritchie.

10. Any other business including correspondence of note

The Chair reported the Village Hall had been booked for Village Drinks after the Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday, Laura Croft will be organising the food and all will be welcome.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20:40

Signed:

Date: