



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Church Hall on
Monday 27 January 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 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 Steven Ridgeon, seconded by Cllr Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake and duly signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the meeting on the 11 November 2019

a) Play Areas

Cllr Ritchie reported he had arranged for a resistograph test to check the condition of the play equipment woodwork. The test would cost £350 + VAT and would establish if the structures needed to be replaced or repaired.

b) Speed reduction signs and double yellow lines

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported there was still an issue with the speed reduction sign and it would only work when the battery was fully charged. Cllr Atkinson had been in contact with the manufacturer again who had suggested that it would need a larger solar panel. Cllr Atkinson confirmed he was looking into this and that he would be moving the sign to the West Meon entrance to the village shortly.

Cllr Atkinson reported that the double yellow lines outside the school still needed to be repainted. The Chair stated that parking outside the school continued to be an ongoing problem and that the Traffic Enforcement Officers had been to the school at morning drop off, but the main problem was during the afternoon. She added she will be contacting them again.

Cllr Atkinson reported he was still researching “Don’t follow SatNav” signs and would request quotes.

MJA

c) Stiles

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported the initial application had been submitted to HCC Countryside Service and that two additional stiles had been added to the application.

MJA

d) Noticeboards

The Chair reported that she had been in contact with Ken Woodhouse and understood that he and Cllr Marc Atkinson had taken one noticeboard down to be refurbished and that once the work had been done and the board put back up the other noticeboard would be removed permanently.

MA

e) Village Hall & Pavilion

Cllr Ridgeon reported that other possible SDNPA funding opportunities had not been approved due to budget cuts. Cllr Ridgeon and the Village Hall Committee Chair would apply for funding from SDNPA Community Infrastructure Levy fund for a lesser amount than previously which would focus on changing facilities in the Village Hall.

SR

f) Bridleways Fiveways & Limekiln Lane

The Chair reported that due to the weather conditions, work had not been completed and was ongoing.

SD

g) Retaining wall at Glenthorne Meadows

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported he had spoken with Ronnie Hunt who would hope to carry out the work in the better weather.

MJA

h) Grass Cutting

Cllr Tyrwhitt Drake reported he had received quotes from PTC and QLS on a per cut basis. QLS quoted £275 per cut and PTC quoted £240 per cut. A lengthy discussion ensued and all Councillors agreed to use PTC for the year ahead. Proposed by Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by Cllr Cooke.

TTD

i) Weed Policy

The Chair reported that in the absence of Cllr Marc Atkinson, there was no update on this policy.

SD

j) Replacement Tree on Washer's Triangle

The PO reported that Chris Brooker would continue to find a suitable replacement and would hope to have it in place once the weather improved.

PO

k) VE Day Commemoration

The Chair reported she had received the Minutes from the organising committee and a huge amount had already been done. The Parish Council expressed their gratitude for the work of the committee. The Chair also reported that the Country Fair would be held on 6th June 2020.

SD

l) Painting of railings

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake had requested an additional two quotations. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake would wait for the final quote and would then confirm who would carry out the work.

TTD

m) Formal approval of the Proper Officer contracted fee

The Chair asked all Councillors present formerly to approve the contracted figure agreed at the last meeting and to this being increased by £300 on 1st April. All Councillors agreed, proposed by Cllr Steve Ridgeon and seconded by Cllr Matt Atkinson.

SD

7. Parish Matters

a) Lengthsmen

Cllr Cook reported there were a few hours left until the end of March and these would be reserved for when the weather improves. Cllr Cook also reported that Chris Smith would take over mowing the grass areas from Tony Perkins at a slightly increased rate of £35.00 per week.

DMC

b) Donation to CAB in memory of Dominic Carney

The Chair reported she had written to Maureen Carney on behalf of the Parish Council expressing their condolences. The Chair suggested that as Dominic had been a very keen supporter of the CAB, it would be appropriate to make a donation as in previous years. The Chair recommended the Parish Council donate £400 to the CAB in Dominic Carney's memory and all Councillors present agreed.

PO

c) SSE power cuts and possible actions and Local Electricity Bill

In the absence of Cllr Marc Atkinson, the Chair asked the Councillors their views about power cuts in the area. They confirmed they did not feel they were a cause for concern. The Chair also asked Councillors for their feedback on the Local Electricity Bill and following discussion, the Councillors agreed not to pursue it.

SD

d) National Grid upgrade works

The Chair reported she had been contacted by the National Grid informing her of the works due to be carried out in the area this Spring. There would be a drop in session at Froxfield Village Hall on 11 February which Cllr Ridgeon & Cllr Davenport would attend.

SD

e) Parish Award Nominations

The Chair requested all Councillors to forward any nominations to her by email and she would then ask the Council to vote on the nominees.

SD

f) Engraved brick at the Petersfield Museum

The Chair reported that the Petersfield Museum had asked if the Parish Council would like to buy an engraved brick. Following discussion, it was agreed the Council would refer the matter to the East Meon History Group and Cllr Hales would contact them.

SD

g) Amendment to Standing Order clause 7.7.1

The Proper Officer recommended an amendment to clause 7.7.1 requiring two quotes to be obtained for goods, materials or services in excess of £2500 rather than the current figure of £1000. All Councillors agreed, proposed by Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake and seconded by Cllr Hales.

6. County / District Councillor Report

Cllr Mocatta was not present at the meeting and his report would be submitted once received.

7. Planning

Cllr Ridgeon reported there had been ten planning applications, all with no objection but some with comments. Cllr Ridgeon also reported the application for development of Westbury House had been submitted and the Planning Committee comments can be seen on the SDNPA Planning Portal.

An application for 11 dwellings on the site south of Coombe Road as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan had also been submitted. The Planning Committee will submit its comments by the end of January.

The Chair thanked the Planning Committee for their high standard of work on these applications.

8. Open Forum

There were no questions from those present

9. Finance

Report on the Financial Position to date for the year to 31st March 2020

Councillors were provided with statements for the year to date showing the actual position against the year's budget. The PO commented on variances most of which had been reported at the previous meeting. Points of note included:-

- Increased expense relating to grass cutting
- Budget 2020-2021 for grass cutting
- Donations were below budget as a request from the Church had not yet been received.
- Increased expense relating to the water bill at the Pavilion
- VAT situation at the end of the year

The PO would respond to the Councillors queries before the next meeting.

The PO reported that some income was still expected from Frogmore car park licences and the cricket club.

It was agreed the PO would circulate the finance report prior to the meetings to give Councillors the opportunity to raise questions in advance.

It was noted that the closing bank balance as at 26th January was £25,475.33.

Precept Setting

The PO confirmed the precept request of £27,462 had been submitted in December 2019.

Audit

The Audit is booked for the 4 May 2020

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

- The Chair reported she had written an article for the Petersfield Post about the Parish Council plans for the coming year.
- The Chair confirmed she was approaching James Emmett from the HCC Countryside Access team to be the speaker at the APA.
- Cllr Ritchie asked about hedge cutting at the Glebe and Cllr Atkinson and Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake informed the Council that the weather was currently too wet.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.13pm

Signed:

Date: