



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Church Hall on
Monday 18th March 2019 at 1830**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Steven Ridgeon (Vice Chair), Dominic Carney, Marc Atkinson, David Cooke, Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake, Sharon Sillence, Chris Pamplin, Matt Atkinson, Rob Mocatta

Sarah Cowlrick (RFO), Suzie Brooker (PO) and two residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

None received

2. To receive any Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

No declarations received

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 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 PTD and seconded by MA.

4. Matters arising from the meeting on the 28th January 2019

a) Play Areas

Village Hall Play Area - Cllr Sillence reported that the fence and gate had been fixed by Arrow Fencing without charge. Cllr Tyrwhitt Drake reported there was no update on the football posts at the All Weather Court and would make progress with this shortly.

PTD

b) Parking outside the School

Cllr Carney reported line painting would start within the next few weeks and confirmed it had been made clear by the relevant council department that enforcement would be carried out once the correct signage was in place. The Chair would inform the School to advise the parents of the enforcement.

- Cllr Marc Atkinson requested that it was minuted that he objected previously to the proposal.

DC

c) Speed Reductions

Cllr Carney reported that HCC confirmed the post extensions were on order and the completion of work would be in April. The Lengthsman would be asked to install the signs and emphasis would be on the Clanfield road.

DC

d) Stiles

Cllr Matt Atkinson reported he had attempted to contact the relevant Landowners in Frogmore which had proved quite difficult. MJA also reported six stiles in Frogmore had been earmarked as potentially eligible for Miles without Stiles grants. MJA had spoken with Cllr Mocatta about grants for next year and had also researched SDNP and EHDC grants. SDNP would be specific about the materials used which could be expensive. EHDC would allow softwood, however more maintenance would be required. Before any work could be carried out, the grant would need to be in place.

MJA would apply for a grant and RM recommended applying to HCC Communities Fund and suggested they would fund the project in one go. MJA reported that permission would be required from the landowners to change from stiles to kissing gates and RM suggested that where permission was not granted for kissing gates it would be prudent just to replace each stile. RM also suggested contacting the Ramblers Association who had carried out an audit on the stiles and also to ask residents to report stiles which needed to be repaired or replaced. A discussion ensued about liability of Landowners for the stiles and kissing gates. SD reported that written confirmation from the relevant Landowners in each case would be required to confirm they were satisfied with the new stile/kissing gate.

MJA

e) Lengthsman

DMC reported the interviews for a new Lengthsman took place at the end of February. Two local men were successful and would commence their role on 1st April 2019. DMC requested all Cllrs to suggest work that could be carried out and DMC would prioritise the worklist and liaise with the PO and Jenny Hollington.

DMC

f) Westbury Hospital Sign

The Chair reported that in February HCC had confirmed they would remove the signs but having not done so SD contacted them when they reported they were unable to locate them and then again when they said that their removal would have to come out of next years budget.

SD

5. Parish Matters

a) APA & Parish Award –

The Chair reported that PC Scott Graham would be the speaker at the APA. PTD agreed to organise refreshments following the meeting and SD requested Cllrs to help set-up the village hall from 6pm. Promotion of the meeting was discussed and the RFO would

print A3 posters for the A-Frame board outside the shop. SS would promote the APA on the village Facebook page.

A discussion about the Parish Award would take place once members of the public had left the meeting.

SD

b) Noticeboards

A discussion ensued about the various noticeboards in the village. Cllr Sillence suggested and it was subsequently agreed that it was only necessary to have one good quality noticeboard outside the village shop. Cllr Ridgeon offered to be responsible for organizing the overhaul or replacement of the existing board.

SR

c) Pavilion & Village Hall

SR reported the Village Hall and Parish Council had made a joint grant application to SDNP. The objective is to provide increased facilities for residents and visitors. It would be discussed at the APA when residents would have the opportunity to express their views.

SR

d) Electric Cars

The Chair reported she had contacted SDNP to enquire about funding for electric charging points. Although they have no policy or funding in place there is a Government paper on the subject and central funding available of up to 75% of the cost of a charging point. EHDC were very helpful and Jane Devlin would visit East Meon to see if the parish would be eligible for funding. MA suggested Podpoint, a company who lease charging points and would look into options.

SD

e) New Bench

The Chair reported she had a request from Mrs Greta Tubb and her brothers and sister about the possibility of placing a bench on the High Street in memory of their parents George & Freda Blackman who had lived in the village for many years. The Cllrs agreed they would be happy with this, subject to approval of the design and location.

SD

6. County / District Councillor Report

Cllr Mocatta reported that Roy Perry would be stepping down as Leader of HCC and a new CEO would be appointed in May. Cllr Mocatta also reported a new Welfare Fund from EHDC and would provide details when more information became available.

7. Planning

Cllr Ridgeon reported that there had been four planning applications with no objections or comments.

8. Open Forum

A resident asked about the hedge by the Glebe strip and PTD reported it could not be cut by Bereleigh and she would ask RC Hoare.

9. Finance

The RFO advised that she would be producing a full financial pre-audit report for Councillors at the end of the financial year to 31st March 2019 in 10 days' time. In addition, a report will be available for parishioners at the Annual Parish Assembly. She furthermore advised that there were no areas of concern since the last report in February.

The RFO advised that a new policy was in place for the provision of mileage expenses should Councillors wish to claim. She went on to advise that provision was in place for the Parish Council in respect of the new MTD (making tax digital) rules for claiming VAT and that the full Audit is taking place on 30th April.

Finally, the RFO advised that 10% discretionary Rate Relief plus 80% additional relief request for Rate relief on the Pavilion had been successful.

10. Any other business including correspondence of note

Cllr Pamplin raised concern about a crack in the retaining wall at the entrance to Glenthorne Meadow. SS would ask Jerry Sillence and Chris Brooker to look at the wall and trees.

The Parish Council were saddened to hear that Tony Perkins was in hospital. Cover had been arranged for grass cutting until further notice.

The Chair reported at the end of the meeting there would be forms for Cllrs to complete if they would like to stand again as a Councillor.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7.47pm

Signed:

Date: