



**Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Village Hall on
Monday 20 March 2023**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Steven Ridgeon (Vice Chair), Charles Ritchie, Matt Atkinson, David Cooke, Andrew Hales, Sharon Sillence, Sarah Round, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake
Sam Marchant (PC), Rob Mocatta and 1 member of the public attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

None

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 16 January 2023. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read.

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

4. To review the following

a) EMPC Risk Assessment Policy was approved with changes to the Bank and Banking section, multiple bank accounts have been added for safeguarding monies received from CIL.

b) Equality & Diversity Policy was approved by Cllrs.

c) Health & Safety Policy was approved by Cllrs.

d) Planning Policy was approved by Cllrs.

e) Asset Register, it was suggested to remove the Shields as many of these had been distributed and to add the three defibrillators as they are insured by EMPC.

5. Open Forum

No questions from the public.

6. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting on 16 January 2023

a. Queens Platinum Jubilee Tree & Plaque Update (SD)

The Chair reported that the tree had been planted by the Tree Warden, John Mackinlay and that the plaque had been ordered. This when ready would be collected from Worcester by the Chair and would need to be installed, Cllr Atkinson and Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake agreed to this. SD/MA/TTD



b. Allotments (DC)

Cllr Cooke confirmed all plots had been taken.

The new sub meter to split the water between the allotments and the Sports Pavilion was then discussed. Following lack of contact with Southeast Water (via Castle Water) and costs it was decided to get a quote from P D Crouch, who has done work for the Council before, to install an additional meter inside the Sports Pavilion so that the water used by the allotments and the Sports Pavilion can be calculated. Cllr Ritchie and the Parish Clerk to follow this up. CR/PC

c. Lengthsman (DC)

Cllr Cooke confirmed that the Lengthsman's position had been extended for another year and all previously raised jobs had been completed with the path across The Green to be reassessed. DC

d. Clothes Bin (SRound)

Cllr Round reported that the Clothes bin had now been installed next to the Sports Pavilion in Workhouse Lane. The bin would be regularly monitored by the Air Ambulance charity. Concerns about colour had been raised however this could not be changed. SRound

e. Litter/Waste/Recycle Bins & Bottle Banks (SS)

Cllr Sillence reported that she had been in contact with EHDC and that they would be actively looking into replacing bins in the village.

It was confirmed that the Bottle Banks would not be returning to Workhouse Lane and the facilities in Petersfield at the recycling centre, the main car park and Tesco car park should now be used. SS

f. All Sports Court Resurfacing (SRound)

Cllr Round confirmed she had contacted Houston Courts for an estimated date for works to begin and was waiting on a reply. SRound

g. Potential Grants

Cllr Round reported that she had applied for both EHDC CIL and SDNPA CIL funding grants. Cllr Mocatta asked her to forward the application to SDNPA to him to see what he could do. She also said that she plans to apply for a Community Grant when they became available. SRound



h. All Sports Pavilion (CR)

Cllr Richie reported that the CCTV cameras were now up and running and that appropriate signs had been placed in the vicinity of the Sports Pavilion. He also explained that the affected toilet block had been stripped out due to the leak damage and a company called Revival had been brought in by the insurers which had begun to dry out the building. He also confirmed that all the costs of the works would be covered by the insurance claim. Going forward the flooring would need to be lifted; however Harvest Football Club would prefer this to be done after their final match of the season on 6 May. CR

i. Harvest FC update (CR)

Cllr Ritchie reported that there had been little contact with the team manager of Harvest Football Club, and games continued to be played. CR

j. Youth Engagement Update (SRound)

Cllr Round referred to the information circulated before the meeting regarding the concrete table tennis table and shelter examples. Two quotes for the table were to be sourced. Cllrs agreed this should be pursued. Regarding the possible design of shelter, Cllr Round asked which type would be preferred, Cllrs agreed to pause this project while CIL money projects were being discussed. SRound

k. Report by Working Party on CIL Money Projects

Cllr Hales reported that the working party had made progress however it would need to discuss potential schemes further before presenting their thoughts to the Council.

l. Traffic Calming Measures, Road Signs & Potholes (MA)

Cllr Atkinson reported that he had been in contact with Ian Janes from HCC who had confirmed traffic calming measures had been included in the HCC 2023/24 budget. He will advise Cllrs once the signs at Buriton and Ramsdean have been replaced to reduce traffic passing through the village. Regarding potholes he reminded Cllrs to continue reporting these on the HCC website. He also stated that two of the toad signs in Oxenbourne had unfortunately gone missing and that he was aware that the kerb on the bridge had been broken again and that this had been reported to HCC Highways. MA



m. Progress on Sewage Leaks in Workhouse Lane (SD)

The Chair reported that she and Cllr Mocatta had written to the Environment Agency and Southern Water regarding the sewage leaks, and that they had both received ineffectual replies. Cllr Mocatta confirmed he would request again for a closed meeting to be held with Southern Water and the EA meanwhile evidence was being gathered to support the argument that action was needed. SD/RM

n. Grass Cutting Review (TTD)

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported that Petersfield Town Council prices had risen by 5% which had been expected. He had also asked Simon Marden, who had previously been contracted to carry out the work, to provide a quote. As both companies had been reliable Cllrs agreed that the lowest quote should proceed once received. TTD

o. EMNG/Environmental Update/Hedge Planting Update (SR/AH)

Cllr Ridgeon reported that the 'Toads on the roads' project was ongoing with results to be published next month. The final nature hedge on the Recreation Ground had been planted by the TWiG team and volunteers with plans for more planting projects next year now underway.

He also confirmed that the Ash Die Back survey had been booked for June with a report to be issued highlighting priority works.

Cllr Hales added that the grant monies from EHDC for the hedge planting had been received. SR

p. Speaker for APA (SD)

The Chair reported that she had invited Professor Trudie Lang who would give a talk called 'From Ebola, to Zika to Covid – and why Malaria matters in the Meons' at the APA on 24 April.

q. Parish Award Nomination (SD)

Following discussion, it was agreed that no Parish Award would be made this year but would be looked at again next year.

7. Parish Matters

a. 20 is Plenty (SD/RM)

The Chair reported that she had continued to liaise with other parishes regarding the countywide movement to reduce speeds to 20mph in all towns and villages in Hampshire. Cllr Mocatta was awaiting the process to be approved to allow Parish Councils to apply to be a pilot village for this. SD/RM



b. King Charles III Coronation Celebrations and Tree

The Chair reported that David Pepper and his team were finalising plans for the Coronation weekend in May. A screen is to be in the Church to show the Coronation on the Saturday with the Sunday's activities to include a boat race and King & Queen parade to the tea party on The Green to be followed by a BBQ, bar and music in the evening. A tree would also be planted on the Recreation Ground with the school adding a time capsule. The Chair asked Cllrs if they felt a contribution of up to £500 to fund chair hire for the tea party on The Green would be reasonable, Cllrs unanimously agreed to this amount. She also stated that, as with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year the payment for commemorative mugs would go through the Parish Council accounts with the costs to be recouped after sales. Cllr Mocatta recommended looking into a possible Coronation grant to help with funding. SD

c. Big Help Out Day (SD/SS)

The Chair introduced EHDCs initiative 'The Big Clean Up' currently underway with the idea of litter picking in East Meon on the 'Big Help Out Day' on 8 May following the King's Coronation. Cllr Sillence confirmed she would look into sourcing hi vis jackets, bin bags and a commitment from EHDC to collect the full rubbish bags. SS

d. Community Warden (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon referred to his report circulated prior to the meeting. He concluded that the role had not been designed for small villages due to costs and recommended that the Council should not go ahead with the idea. Cllrs agreed. He confirmed he would write to the person who had originally contacted the Parish Council accordingly. SR

e. Elections

The Parish Clerk asked for all nomination forms to be handed in as she had arranged an appointment to take these to EHDC on 27 March. She also confirmed that the APM originally booked for 22 May had been brought forward to 15 May due to Election regulations. PC

f. Facebook (SD/PC)

The Chair asked Cllrs whether they thought the Parish Council should have more of a presence on Facebook and the FoEM Page. It was suggested that a brief update once a month would be sufficient. Cllr Sillence agreed to take on this responsibility. SS



g. Parish Clerk Salary Review (SD)

The Chair referred to her previous email to Cllrs regarding a pay increase for the Parish Clerk, all agreed on the new amount. She also asked following Petersfield Town Council's rise in charges previously discussed that Chris Smith's mowing of smaller areas of Parish land rates should be raised by 5%, Cllrs unanimously agreed.

8. County/District Councillor report

Cllr Mocatta referred to his EHDC and HCC reports circulated prior to the meeting. He drew Cllrs attention to EHDC's Spring Clean initiative currently underway and fruit tree planting project which was to be repeated again next year and to include nut trees. He also highlighted the fact that HCC had had positive feedback regarding school allocation, especially secondary schools in the area.

9. Planning Report by Chairman of the Planning Committee

Cllr Ridgeon reported two applications had been submitted, both relating to trees with no objections. Dwelling planning applications had decreased recently. With regards to the Penny Mile development, the short list of road names suggested by the Parish Council had been agreed upon but he would continue to work with EHDC to finalise these, details would be shared once this was done. SDNPA had begun to collect evidence for their next Local Plan and Cllr Ridgeon along with the Chair would be attending the SDNPA meeting tomorrow.SR/SD

10. Finance

a. Presentation of actual v budget for the current year

The RFO presented her report of actual cost against the budget for the current year.

b. Approval of payments of invoices (1 January 2023– 10 March 2023)

The RFO reported on all payments between the dates of 1 January to 10 March 2023. Councillors unanimously approved all payments.

c. Audit

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the internal audit would be taking place on the 27 April and would be carried out by Lightatouch as in previous years.

11. Any other business including correspondence of note.

It was reported that a resident had made a complaint about conifers on High Street sticking too far out into the road. A suggestion would be made to the owner to cut them back.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20:55

Signed:

Date: