



**Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Village Hall on
Monday 21 November 2022**

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 4 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

None absent

2. Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest

Cllr Round declared that she was a member of the East Meon Village Hall Committee.

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 10 October 2022. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read.

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

4. Open Forum

None

5. Presentation by Owner of The Post House on Protecting His Property for Vehicle Damage

The Chair introduced Ian Cook who had come to give a short presentation on how he might be able to protect his property, The Post House, from vehicle damage.

Mr Cook agreed with the Parish Council that white lines were not the answer. He explained that the SW corner of the roof of his building had been hit twice in recent years. He proposed that a post or bollard to be positioned outside his property to prevent future damage.

Following discussion, it was agreed that when the Chair and Cllr Atkinson met with Ian Janes from HCC Highways on Friday, they would discuss the possibility of either a permanent or removable physical barrier.

Cllrs also agreed that parking outside the Ye Olde George Inn and on the bridge had become a traffic and safety issue.

Cllrs agreed to look further into this proposal and revisit in the next Parish Council meeting in January.

(SD/MA)

6. Harvest Football Club Presentation – Neil Blake

The Chair introduced Neil Blake, who had come to report on Harvest FC's last season and to discuss future plans. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had been happy with the arrangement with Harvest FC and the works they had carried out on the football pitch and pavilion. The current agreement was currently being reviewed with particular reference to water and electric costs.

Mr Blake presented his future plans to have both teams, Reserves and 1st team, playing in East Meon adding that the Football Association had certain requirements which needed to be put into place before this could happen.

Mr Blake proposed pop up dug outs to be purchased by the football club which would be in place for the games and then stored away when not in use.

Advertising boards which would be removed after each game, they would help encourage sponsors for the teams and create income.

Hard standing and a fixed barrier for the safety of the spectators.

A storage container such as a wooden shed.

Following discussion Cllrs agreed to the pop up dug outs suggested, temporary advertising boards providing one board was offered to a local business (as previously suggested by the Parish Council) and a lockable wooden shed with the position to be agreed.

Cllrs asked Mr Blake to research easily removable surfaces for the hardstanding and a more aesthetically rural barrier. It was agreed he would come back to the Parish Council for approval before any works were carried out.

Mr Blake thanked the PC for their support and agreed to look into the points raised and return once he had more information.

7. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting on 10 October 2022

a. Remembrance Sunday (SD)

The Chair reported that the Remembrance Sunday church service, Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial and village drinks at the Village Hall had all been well attended, she went on to thank all those involved in organising the event.

b. Queens Platinum Jubilee Tree. Plaque & Grant to School (SD)

The Chair reported that a grant of £500 had now been made to the school. The Jubilee tree had been ordered however the company which had agreed to make the plaque had ceased trading. She also reported that there had not been any entries for the art competition. The Chair agreed to appoint a volunteer to plant the tree and source another company to make the plaque.

(SD)

c. BOATs (SD)

The Chair reported that she had attended the SDNPA meeting on 20 October where BOATs had been discussed. She had been disappointed with the SDNPAs decision to not take action. She felt the Members had not taken into consideration their statutory principals to protect and preserve the NP and to enhance enjoyment for all using BOATs. She reported that HCC had closed

certain BOATs to all apart from walkers over the winter to prevent further damage. There is a planned EHAPT zoom meeting with BOATs on the agenda, where further work by HCC would be discussed. The Chair asked Cllrs if they would support her writing a letter to SDNPA to voice concerns that they were not adhering to their principals. Cllrs unanimously agreed to this.

(SD)

d. Emergency Plan Using the Village Hall (SD)

The Chair presented the Village Hall Committee Emergency plan which had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. She asked Cllrs whether they felt a grant from the Parish Council of £3000 to go towards a generator and its installation would be appropriate. Cllrs unanimously agreed for this grant to be made.

(SD)

e. Allotments (DC)

Cllr Cooke reported that all allotment plots had been paid up for the year. A recent water bill had made it clear that the allotment fee, which had been frozen at £20 for many years, needed to be increased as it was now insufficient to cover water usage. Cllr Cooke proposed that the annual charge for an allotment plot should be increased from £20 to £30 (with a concessionary rate) and the cost of any water bills which exceed this to be split between holders on each site. He highlighted that currently the Workhouse Lane allotments shared a water meter with the Sports Pavilion which makes it unclear who has used what and the possibility of a sub meter was being explored by the water company. Cllr Cooke read his drafted letter to the allotment holders and asked Cllrs for their endorsement on this proposal. Cllrs unanimously agreed to these proposed changes.

(DC)

f. Play Area by Village Hall Repair (SRound)

Cllr Round reported that the beam had now been installed.

(SRound)

g. All Sports Court Resurfacing (SRound)

Cllr Round reported she had contacted the original company, Housden Courts, for an up-to-date estimate for works and had been quoted in the region of £14,000 with the date of installation being February 2023 with a 2-year guarantee. She had since tried to negotiate this price and had been waiting on a response. She asked Cllrs whether they agreed for her to go ahead once the company had confirmed the price. Cllrs unanimously agreed.

(SRound)

h. Potential Grants

Cllr Round reported that she had nothing to report regarding potential grants at this time.

(SRound)

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

Cllr Sillence informed Cllrs that she had reported the overflowing glass bins when they had not been emptied. She also confirmed that she had ordered new "Dog Poo" signs for Hill View area which were due to arrive on Wednesday.

(SS)

j. Clothes Bin (SRound)

Cllr Round informed Cllrs that she had contacted the Hampshire Search and Rescue charity and they had asked for a plan of where the bin should be situated. She confirmed this would be next to bottle bins.

(SRound)

k. Security at the Sports Pavilion (CR)

Cllr Richie reported that the cameras were yet to be received. He said they were en route and would be installed once they had arrived.

(CR)

l. Ash Die Bank Survey (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon recommended taking the item off the agenda until the spring when the survey could take place. He also asked Cllr Mocatta whether funding could be used for this. Cllr Mocatta to confirm this.

(SR/RM)

m. Youth Engagement Update (SRound)

Cllr Round informed Cllrs that no further ideas had been put forward and suggested a Facebook post asking residents for their thoughts.

(SRound)

n. SID to go on Coombe Road (MA)

Cllr Atkinson reported that he and the Chair would be meeting with Ian Janes from HCC highways on Friday and would discuss the possibility of the speed sign being positioned along Coombe Road.

(MA/SD)

o. Lengthsman (DC)

Cllr Cooke reported that the Lengthsman had completed two tasks successfully, with two more yet to be done. He also highlighted that the scheme could be dropped in the spring. The eight Parishes who use the Lengthsman would look either to coming together and keeping the current Lengthsman or investigating employing another individual instead. Cllr Cooke agreed to keep Cllrs updated on the this.

(DC)

p. EMNG/Environmental Update (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon reported that the TWiG group would be planting the first nature hedge along Workhouse Lane on 2nd and 3rd of December. Volunteers from the community would be doing the planting. SDNPA plus a grant from our District Councillor would cover the plants and additional costs.

(SR)

q. Report by Working Party on CIL Money Projects

Cllrs in the working party confirmed discussions were ongoing and would have a report for the next meeting in January.

8. Parish Matters

a. East Meon's Celebrations Marking the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla 6/05/23 (SD)

The Chair confirmed Philippa Tyrwhitt-Drake had kindly offered to organise village celebrations for the Coronation, however which day to hold them on would need to be decided.

(SD)

b. Traffic Calming Measures, Road Signs in Oxenbourne, & Church Street Diversions (MA)

Cllr Atkinson reported that the HCC Highways had been in contact to offer community funded initiative for traffic calming measures of £15,000. He confirmed he would be meeting with Ian Janes on Friday, he would discuss ideas such as pinch points on entering the village, Workhouse Lane/The Cross becoming a one way system and limiting HGVs using smaller roads in the village. He will report outcomes at the next meeting.

(MA)

County/District Councillor report

Cllr Mocatta referred to his report highlighting that the waste collection contract was to be reviewed in January and would be fulfilled by EHDC.

The full report can be found on the Parish Council website.

9. Planning

Report by Chairman of the Planning Committee

Cllr Ridgeon reported 4 applications were received in the last period. The Parish Council objected to one of these, an application to determine if siting a container on one of the parcels of land at Westbury was permitted development. The Planning Officer agreed with the Parish Councils objection. Cllr Mocatta gave an update on positive progress of the injunction to prevent development on those parcels of land. Plans for development of the 2nd site of the Neighbourhood Development Plan had been submitted.

SDNPA consulted with the Parish Council regarding provision of over £48,500 of S106 money, raised in 2014, to Petersfield Housing Association to increase sustainability of affordable housing in Duncombe Road, including the installation of solar panels and battery storage. This will decrease running costs of these homes. The Parish Council had responded to SDNPA, giving full support.

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 October – 11 November)

The RFO reported on all payments between the dates of 1 October to the 11 November 2022. Councillors unanimously approved all payments. Proposed by Cllr Ridgeon and seconded by Cllr Round.

c. Agreement of Precept for 2023/24

The RFO presented the proposed budget for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 and advised that it had been prepared using figures submitted from Councillors and using the current and previous year as a guide.

The RFO recommended that following guidance from the internal auditor there should be an increase in precept of 6.5%. All Cllrs were in agreement of the Precept being set at £30,728 (Thirty thousand seven hundred twenty-eight pounds) for the financial year of 2023/24.

11. Any other business including correspondence of note

Cllr Hales asked whether a white line on the sharp bend on the East Meon/Petersfield Road could be looked into. Cllr Atkinson agreed to put the suggestion to Ian Janes at their meeting on Friday.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21:45

Signed:

Date: