



**Meeting of the Parish Council
Held at East Meon Village Hall on
Monday 16 January 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

Parish award – Cllr Ritchie

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

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

4. Open Forum

A resident asked whether the Church clock could be fixed. The Chair explained this would be the East Meon Parochial Church Council's responsibility and recommended contacting them directly.

5. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting on 21 November 2022

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

The Chair was pleased to report that the Oak tree to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee had been ordered and was to be collected around the 2 February by Cllr Hales. John Mackinlay, the Tree Warden, had agreed to plant the tree with Cllr Atkinson to dig the hole. A photograph would be taken to be published in Meon Matters. (SD)

b. BOATs (SD)

The Chair reported that she, Debbie Luff from Langrish PC and 2 representatives from the local action group, BEAM, had attended Damian Hinds MP's surgery on 6 January when they had been allocated 15 minutes to put their case. They had asked Damian to support them in trying to protect the BOATs in East Hampshire. He had expressed his sympathy for the issue and advised them to work with Cllr Mocatta.

The Chair said she was pressing for winter closures especially when there had been heavy rain and was working with local county councillors to persuade HCC to apply for SDNPA CIL monies to fund the installation of metal gates at each end of all East Hampshire's BOATs in a poor state. These would have padlocks with local horse riders having the combination codes to allow them access. (SD)

c. Emergency Plan Using the Village Hall (SD)

The Chair informed Cllrs that the generator funded in part by the Parish Council had arrived. This would ensure the Village Hall could provide light and warmth for residents in need if the village was subjected to a prolonged power cut as it had experienced the previous year. She reported that the Warm Room initiative had not been as successful as hoped however new ideas such as, midweek Bingo lunches and Sunday family entertainment run by the Village Hall Committee were being considered. (SD)

d. Allotments (DC)

Cllr Cooke reported that there were concerns regarding the sewage leak along Workhouse Lane following the heavy rain and that this would be monitored. He said he had installed solar lighting in the Frogmore allotments following a resident's request. (DC)

e. All Sports Court Resurfacing (SRound)

Cllr Round reported the works to resurface the All Sports Court would begin in March weather conditions allowing. She asked Cllrs whether an extra £300 for 5-a-side lines would be acceptable. Cllrs agreed unanimously to the proposal. She also reported that EHDC had advertised a Strategic CIL Funding window which she would look to apply for for the project in February. (SRound)

f. Potential Grants

Cllr Round said that she had no other potential grants to report. (SRound)

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

Cllr Sillence informed Cllrs that there were now three glass bottle banks at the Sports Pavilion site which had been regularly emptied, however there had been instances where there had been too many glass bottles left on the ground, many of which were broken. Cllr Ridgeon expressed concern that the bottle banks were not far away enough from the all-weather court and that broken glass could present a safety issue. Cllr Sillence also reported that she still had not received a reply email from EHDC despite chasing many times regarding the installation of larger dual-purpose bins to replace waste bins in the village. Cllr Mocatta asked Cllr Sillence to send the emails to him for him to follow up. (SS)

h. Clothes Bin (SRound)

Cllr Round reported that the Clothes Bin had not yet arrived and that she hoped the contractors for the Air Ambulance charity would be delivering it soon.

(SRound)

i. Security at the Sports Pavilion (CR)

Cllr Richie reported that the CCTV cameras had now arrived and would be installed in due course by David Pepper and his team. He also informed Cllrs that he had needed to replace a faulty padlock on the Sports Pavilion gate. (CR)

j. Youth Engagement Update (SRound)

Cllr Round reported she had discussed ideas with some parents in the village and had received the achievable suggestions of a stone all weather tennis table, a space and shelter for the young to meet with friends and a basketball hoop. Following discussion Cllrs agreed to look at the possible site beside the football pitch for these to be installed. Cllr Round agreed to research costs and investigate generally further. (SRound)

k. SID to go on Coombe Road (MA)

Cllr Atkinson reported that he and the Chair had met with Ian Janes as arranged, Mr Janes had said that unfortunately Coombe Road would not be suitable for a SID. He had noted that there was only one 30 sign rather than two, which would have been more normal. He suggested that there be a 30 sign either side of the road, with the East Meon sign moved closer to the 40 Acre track on Coombe Road. Cllr Atkinson will be liaising with Hampshire Highways to have these put in place. (MA)

l. EMNG/Environmental Update, Approval to Write a Formal Letter to SDNPA to Ask for the Project to Implement the Designation of Our Section of the Meon to be Moved up the SDNPA Priority List (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon reported that at the recent EMNG meeting a resident had advised them that he had received permission for works to improve diversity on his boundary alongside the River Meon in Frogmore and that planting was to start in the spring. Cllr Ridgeon also reported that the Tree Working Group had successfully planted the hedge on The Green with a second phase of planting a hedge on The Recreation Ground planned for the beginning of February.

Cllr Ridgeon asked Cllrs whether they would support a letter to SDNPA asking for the designation of the section of the River Meon running through the village to be moved up the SDNPA priority list. Cllrs agreed to this unanimously. (SR)

m. Report by Working Party on CIL Money Projects

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

n. **Traffic Calming Measures, Road Signs in Oxenbourne (MA)**

Cllr Atkinson reported that following the meeting with Ian Janes, 14 different sites in Buriton, Stroud and Ramsdean had been identified where Hampshire Highways could remove or change signage to discourage high volumes of traffic taking diversions when a closure occurred on more main roads in the surrounding area. He stated that Ian Janes had predicted that villages would have speeds reduced to 20 mph in the future. Further plans had been discussed regarding making the entrance to Workhouse Lane from the West Meon Road narrower and therefore less accessible to larger vehicles. Also, he felt informal crossing points with dipped curbs and dimpled surfaces on The High Street would help to slow traffic. White lines along the edges of roads were dismissed as out of keeping in the village. He also confirmed that the bridges in Workhouse Lane and The Cross had been assessed by HCC engineers following concerns raised about large vehicles driving over them and had been declared as able to cope with HGVs. Finally, Toad Signs in Oxenbourne were to be installed soon.

The planned road closure in Church Street to finish drainage works at the end of January was then discussed, it was agreed that Cllr Atkinson would request that HGVs should not be allowed along Workhouse Lane. Cllr Mocatta said he would contact HCC Highways about this. The Chair and Cllr Ridgeon confirmed they had already spoken with the site manager at the Penny Mile site to ensure their contractors had been informed that no HGVs should access the site via Workhouse Lane. (MA)

o. **Harvest Football Club/The Pavilion Update (CR)**

Cllr Ritchie informed Cllrs that he and the Chair had met with Neil Blake from Harvest Football Club to discuss Harvest's first year at East Meon. In particular the lack of youth engagement and the need for Harvest to increase its match fees in view of the rising water bills. They also discussed the pitch requirements expressed at the previous meeting. Mr Blake said that there were difficulties with organising a youth team at this time, but they were looking into doing this in the future. There was a suggestion of an outside company to supply this, Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake agreed to look into this and to report to Cllr Ritchie.

Mr Blake had said the team were currently struggling with funds and were looking into sponsorship and advertising boards to help.

Cllr Ritchie confirmed he had asked for all rubbish to be cleared following each match as sometimes it was left behind attracting rats.

Cllr Ritchie then went on to report that there had been a water leak at the Pavilion. This was first discovered on 19 December. He confirmed the burst pipe had been repaired however there had been considerable damage to the ceiling, door, lights and electric shower unit in the female changing room and toilets. The light had now been fixed but the other damage and mould remained to be

sorted. Cllr Ritchie was waiting for Harvest to confirm that they would contribute manpower and finances to make good the damage.

Jerry Sillence had inspected the building and reported that one side was falling away as the wooden support posts were rotten. The estimate for repair was then circulated to Cllrs. It was suggested that the building might be best replaced by a scaled down version which would be easily maintainable and also provide an area for suggested items in the Youth Engagement item. It was agreed that this would be a good use of CIL monies with the possibility that the SDNPA would match funds. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake and Cllr Sillence agreed to look into this project and Cllr Ridgeon offered to help with any planning permission that may be needed. Cllrs to give a report of progress at the next meeting. (CR,TTD,SR,SS)

p. The Post House (MA)

Cllr Atkinson informed Cllrs that he had discussed with Ian Janes a bollard being installed inside the new gully next to the Post House to stop vehicles getting too close to the building. The additional benefit being that it would also protect pedestrians crossing the road at this point. He confirmed that this had been reported to the owners and left with them to arrange with HCC Highways.

6. Parish Matters

a. Sewage Leaks on Workhouse Lane (SD)

The Chair reported that she had been made aware of the issue of raw sewage which had been bubbling up through the manhole covers along Workhouse Lane. She said that residents in Workhouse Lane had been reporting it to Southern Water and the Environment Agency and that she had also been in contact with the Environment Agency, Elaina Whittaker- Slark at SDNPA and Southern Water. The EA officer had got a positive reading of contamination the previous week and had reported this to Southern Water. The water company had undertaken to jet the Victorian pipe running beneath Workhouse Lane in an attempt to clear it of any obstructions. Following discussion, the Chair suggested arranging a meeting with Southern Water, the Environment Agency and select residents from Workhouse Lane to discuss improvements moving forward. Cllrs agreed to this. (SD)

b. White Line on the Sharp Bend on the East Meon/Petersfield Road (MA)

Cllr Atkinson confirmed this section of road is not in the Parish of East Meon and the resident should refer the matter to Langrish Parish Council.

c. Hedge Cutting Review for 2023 (CR/MA/TTD)

Cllr Atkinson informed Cllrs that all hedge cutting on Parish land had been done.

d. Grass Cutting Review for 2023 (TTD)

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported that he had attempted to contact Petersfield Town Council to discuss the grass cutting contract for the year ahead, without success. He said he had also emailed the previous contractor for

a quote for a comparison. He hoped to have received the quotes by the next meeting in March. (TTD)

e. All Saints Church Request for Churchyard Maintenance Contribution (SD)

The Chair informed Cllrs that she had received a request from the treasurer of All Saints' PCC for a contribution towards Churchyard maintenance. She suggested a donation of £500, Cllrs unanimously agreed to this. (SD/PC)

f. Speaker for APA (SD)

The Chair asked Cllrs if they had any suggestions for a speaker for the APA, Cllrs agreed to contact the Chair by mid-February with any thoughts.

g. Parish Award Nominations (SD)

The Chair informed Cllrs that she had received two nominations so far and asked Cllrs to let her know if they had other names to put forward. She added that they would be making a decision at the next meeting in March.

County/District Councillor report

Cllr Mocatta referred to his report regarding the help that is available to people struggling with the fuel crisis. He drew Cllrs attention to the fact that at the May elections voters would need to have on them a photo id. No id will be needed when voting by post. He also informed Cllrs that the Lengthsman scheme would be continuing for 2023.

Cllr Mocattas full report can be found on the Parish Council website.

7. Planning

Report by Chairman of the Planning Committee

Cllr Ridgeon reported that there had been 7 planning applications, 4 of these were dwellings, 1 a farm building and 2 classed as others. There had been 1 objection for the conversion of a disused equestrian stabling unit into a single medium sized dwelling.

With regards to the Penny Mile development, Cllr Ridgeon said that the weather had put the developers behind schedule. Regarding the planned road works in Coombe Road in February, he had asked the utilities contractor to see if they could plan the work for one week instead of two and for the road to open in the evenings for residents' access, or possible traffic lights.

8. Finance

a. Presentation of actual v budget for the current year

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

b. Approval of payments of invoices (12 November – 31 December)

The RFO reported on all payments between the dates of 12 November to the 31 December 2022. Councillors unanimously approved all payments.

Proposed by Cllr Sillence and seconded by Cllr Cooke.

9. Any other business including correspondence of note.

The Chair reported that she had received an email via the website asking if East Meon was interested in having a Community Warden for the village, Cllr Ridgeon agreed to investigate and come back with findings in the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21:00

Signed:

Date: