

## **This Annual Report reviews the work of the Parish Council over the 12 months from**

### **April 2018 to March 2019.**

We have had 5 regular meetings in the last year in May, July, September, November and January and will be meeting one more time in March before the Annual Parish Assembly on 29th April. Recently we have had very few parishioners attending meetings and would urge residents to come along to listen to our discussions. Agendas and minutes are posted on line on the new Parish Council website ([www.eastmeonpc.org.uk](http://www.eastmeonpc.org.uk)) and put up on the 2 parish noticeboards. At each meeting there is the opportunity for parishioners to raise matters they wish us to consider. Alternatively if you wish to bring something to our attention at any time please either contact the Proper Officer (Parish Clerk) at [properofficer@gmail.com](mailto:properofficer@gmail.com) tel 07913 559579 or any of the councillors whose contact details are on our website and noticeboards.

#### **Finances**

As always careful consideration was given to setting the precept for the coming year. The Responsible Finance Officer presented a budget for the year ending 31st March 2020 and advised Councillors that the average Precept increase over the last 10 years was 4.5%. In the 18/19 year the increase was 2.5%. The recommendation from the RFO was a nil % increase this year in view of the reserves and the balanced budget. This was duly considered and agreed and will be reflected on your Council Tax demand. Councillors are acutely aware of their open and transparent responsibility and you can access reports and other financial information on the new website.

#### **Recreation**

Over the last 12 months we have continued to improve the 2 play areas. At the Village Hall we have put rubber matting under the slide and at the Recreation Ground the climbing frame has been totally refurbished and repainted and the see-saw made more user friendly. Last year we had a new main gate installed and we have now added a smaller pedestrian gate to make it a safer environment for small children. The all - sports court has had new basket ball nets and boards and we are looking into replacing the broken football goals. The Pavilion window frames were painted in the autumn to help preserve them.

The arrangement with Clanfield Football Club continues to operate well. It is just disappointing that East Meon youngsters do not get involved. All the relevant contact details are on our website and noticeboards.

#### **Highways/Road Safety**

We have taken delivery of a Solar Powered Mobile Speed Sign to be rotated between 3 sites on the roads entering the village from Langrish, Coombe and Clanfield. We are still waiting for HCC to put in the relevant post extensions and are hopeful that they will be operational by the time of the APA.

Parking continues to be a major problem in the village. At the request of the school the Parish Council has worked with EHDC to introduce parking restrictions outside the main school gate on Coombe Road. In addition following a complaint by a resident in Hill View EHDC will be authorising yellow lines on both sides of the road at the school end. Please continue to report potholes at [www.hants.gov.uk/roads/roadworks](http://www.hants.gov.uk/roads/roadworks) a huge number of have been repaired over the winter, but there are many more requiring attention.

### **East Meon River Restoration**

There has been further progress in enhancing the river as it flows through the village. Our thanks go again to the SDNP Volunteer Rangers for clearing out the willowherb and an enormous amount of litter and debris particularly along the stretch behind the houses in Workhouse Lane. We are looking at installing a throttle board under the bridge to the rear of Cross House to regulate the flow down the channels along The Cross and to the rear of the Workhouse Lane houses.

### **General maintenance**

We joined the HCC Lengthsman Scheme last spring whereby the County Council allows us as a parish to employ a Lengthsman to carry out £1000 worth of work funded by HCC. Sadly the work we had hoped to have done was not completed. A new Lengthsman has been appointed. The benches along the High Street and elsewhere in the village were refurbished last year and from now onwards the wood will be re-treated each spring.

### **Planning**

Since 1st April, 2018 the Parish Council has received 38 planning applications, requesting our comments as consultees. These are broken down as follows:

	No objection	No objection with comments	Objection	In progress	Total
Dwellings & buildings	20	5	3	1	29
Trees	7	1	0	1	9
Total	27	6	3	2	38

The Planning Committee visits the sites of all applications before submitting a response. Comments made were varied, the most frequent being requesting planners to consider ensuring mitigation against light pollution, supporting the SDNP Dark Skies policy and highlighting any non-compliance with the policies of our Neighbourhood Plan. For those applications to which the PC objected, a public Planning Committee meeting was held to allow open discussion of the objection before it was submitted. Details of planning applications for East Meon can now be accessed on our new Parish Council website under the 'Planning Tracker' tab.

### **The Pavilion and the Village Hall**

The Parish Council has been discussing options for the future of the Pavilion. As part of this, we have engaged with the Village Hall Committee to understand how better to use the Pavilion and the Village Hall to provide a greater range of facilities for residents and visitors. The Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council are exploring funding and at the Annual Parish Assembly some suggestions for additional facilities will be presented and parishioners will be invited to contribute their ideas.

### **Behind the Scenes**

We have brought all our paperwork up to date with a new set of Standing Orders and in line with all other organisations have adopted comprehensive GDPR policies. Our particular thanks go to George Thompson for his advice and assistance in ensuring that as a council we are GDPR compliant. All our policies can be viewed on our website.

### **Thanks**

May I take this opportunity publicly to thank my co-councillors for their work over the year. In July Richard Bartlett retired having been a much valued Vice Chair and Chair of Planning

and we welcomed Matt Atkinson onto the Council. We rely on our volunteers contributing to make East Meon such a special place to live. Over the last year we have had a team acting as "Wombles" collecting litter co-ordinated by Joan Williams. She has now retired and we are looking for someone to replace her....so if you would be able to spare perhaps an hour a week please do let any councillor know.

Finally my sincere thanks go to our new Proper Officer Suzie Brooker who has settled in brilliantly and our Responsible Finance Officer Sarah Cowlrick, who continues to keep all our finances in such good order.

Susan Davenport  
Chair East Meon Parish Council