

**Parish Council Meeting  
Held at East Meon Village Hall on  
Monday 23 September 2024 at 18:30.**

**Minutes**

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Charles Ritchie (Vice Chair), Steven Ridgeon, Matt Atkinson, Andrew Hales, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake and Sarah Round.  
County/District Councillor Rob Mocatta, Sam Marchant (PC), and 6 members of the public attended.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lang and Cllr Sillence.

**2. To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest**

None were declared.

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Chair asked Councillors to consider whether they felt the Minutes were a true record of the meeting held on 22 July 2024. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read.  
Proposed by Cllr Ridgeon and seconded by Cllr Atkinson and duly signed as a true and correct record.

**4. Open Forum**

A resident informed Councillors that she was present in relation to the recently approved planning application for the land behind Lower Farm. It was agreed to discuss this further in the planning item later in the meeting.

**5. Reports and Updates**

**a) Sewage Workhouse Lane (SD)**

The Chair reported that she had written to her contact at Southern Water with questions relating to sewer pipe layout, ongoing investigation and maintenance. Southern Water had originally pledged to have an update by 12 August. Noting that this date had now passed, she said that she had written again but had heard nothing back.

Cllr Atkinson said that he had not been able to look at the runoff water from The Green development as agreed in the last PC meeting, but he would do so soon along with Cllr Sillence.

(SD/MA)

**b) Allotments (TL)**

Cllr Lang had reported via email before the meeting to say that the PC had made a compensation claim on behalf of the WH Lane Allotment holders which had been accepted. Once funds had been received these would be distributed to the individual allotment holders. (PC)

FM allotment holders had been asked to cut back the nettles growing through the fencing running along the footpath.

**c) Lengthsman (TL)**

It was reported that there were 52 Lengthsman hours remaining. It was requested that ditches bordering The Green be highlighted as a priority.

Cllr Ritchie informed Councillors that the Lengthsman had been asked for a quotation for replacement of the wood around the All Sports Court.

(TL/PC)

**d) War Memorial (TL)**

Cllr Atkinson reported that he had been to look at the wooden posts around the War Memorial and believed these should be repaired rather than replaced. He would look to action this before November.

It was also agreed to have Chris Smith cut back the rosemary bushes in time for the Remembrance Sunday Service.

(MA/PC)

**e) BOATs (SD)**

The Chair reported that at the last meeting of the subgroup of EHAPT it had been agreed that she would contact all East Hampshire parishes with BOATs urging them to write to Jonathon Woods at HCC with their comments on the draft BOP.

Jonathon Woods had confirmed that he had plans to meet with representatives to give parishes the opportunity to put forward their views on the final draft BOP prior to finalising this for review and adoption by the Scrutiny Committee later in the year.

She also reported that the resurfacing of BOAT 14 in Ramsdean was now complete and that it had been opened to motor bikes. HCC had confirmed that it would be closely monitored for signs of degradation and would be closed if any damage were to appear attributable to motorised vehicles.

(SD)

**f) Footpaths and Highways to include Frogmore path fencing (MA)**

Cllr Atkinson informed Councillors that Brian Biggs had been doing an excellent job in monitoring the footpaths and BOATs within the parish and had been reporting any issues directly to landowners to action.

He said that he had revisited the fence running along the Frogmore Allotments and had received one quotation from Arrow Fencing in the region of £900, this was to replace the 12-15 rotten posts. He said that he would be looking to get another quote for comparison. It was agreed he could go ahead and get the work done using whichever contractor he felt was best to do the job.

The steps in Frogmore Lane were discussed as they had become more difficult to use. Cllr Mocatta suggested asking The Monday Volunteer group if they could take on the project. Cllr Atkinson said he would contact them.

Cllr Atkinson confirmed that he had made the application for a District Cllr Grant to fund a solar panel for the speed sign.

(MA)

**g) All Sports Pavilion and East Meon FC Vets (CR)**

Cllr Ritchie informed Councillors that the East Meon Veteran Football Club had played their first match of the season, and that payment had been received for the first five games.

An article about the new team would appear in Meon Matters.

He said that his attention had been drawn to some missing tiles along the ridge of the roof on the Sports Pavilion, he agreed to investigate options and costs to be reported back to the PC at the next meeting.

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake offered assistance with the works.

(CR/TTD)

**h) Environment & Nature (SR)**

There was no update available from the East Meon Nature Group for this period.

Cllr Ridgeon reported that the beaver introduction project in the area was now set to go ahead with grants provided by the Farming in Protected Landscapes Fund and the South Downs Trust's ReNature fund. Works have begun on the fencing, and it was hoped that the beavers would arrive by the end of the year.

Natural England is on board and a baseline invertebrate survey had been completed. A drone would be taking photographs of the landscape to measure the impact on the changing environment. The University of Southampton is also interested in conducting research.

With regards to the River Meon, the Meon Valley Partnership is taking steps to improve the quality of water along the length of the River Meon. Cllr Ridgeon had visited a part of the river near Fareham where improvements had already been made with a significantly positive impact.

The Wildflower area by the All Sports Pavilion was reported to have become untidy, Cllr Ridgeon agreed to pass comments on to the Nature Group to action where necessary.

Cllr Round agreed to report the full clothes bank to get this emptied.

(SR/SRound)

**i) CIL Money Projects (AH)**

Cllr Hales reported that potential ideas were being explored further and that the time limit of spending funds should be kept in mind.

(AH)

**j) Playground ROSPA inspection (SRound)**

Cllr Round reported that the ROSPA inspection had been carried out in June, where no high-risk issue had been found.

She said that she had asked RJ Playgrounds to quote for the low-risk issues for them to action.

(SRound)

**k) Grants (SRound)**

Cllr Round reported that the application submitted to SDNPA for the table tennis table had been declined.

Following discussion, it was agreed that funding would be investigated for playground improvements.

(SRound)

**l) EHAPT (TTD)**

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake informed Councillors that there had not been a EHAPTC meeting to report on.

(TTD)

## 6. Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting on 22 July 2024

### a) Residents request to put a wedding marquee on the Football Pitch (SD)

The Chair informed Councillors that she had received a request from a resident to have a wedding marquee positioned on the Football Pitch and for the use of the Sports Pavilion for a Saturday in May 2026.

The Chair asked Councillors for their views on this and supplied a list of draft conditions for the event.

Councillors agreed that this should be investigated further on the understanding that this would be a one-off trial with the appropriate conditions implemented. (SD)

### b) Recycling Scheme (JS)

Due to Cllr Sillences absence this item was deferred to the next PC meeting in November.

### c) EHDC Average speed cameras (SD/RM)

The Chair reported that she had received helpful advice on the initiative however the application window had closed in March with no further plans for the scheme to be extended. She said that she had asked for East Meon to be added to the waiting list should funding become available again.

(SD)

### d) Remembrance Sunday (SD)

The Chair reported that the Remembrance Service would be held on Sunday 10 November. The Village Hall had been booked by the PC, with the Café volunteers serving teas and coffees, All Saints' Church providing wine and soft drinks and Laura Croft organising nibbles. She had asked the PCSO to attend along with a representative to be confirmed from the forces. Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake agreed to help with directing traffic along the High Street while the Act of Remembrance took place at the War Memorial.

(SD/TTD)

## 7. County/District Councillor report

Cllr Mocattas' report can be found on the Parish Council Website.

Cllr Mocatta wanted to highlight some key points in his report.

Glass collections will occur every two weeks from the beginning of October.

The 67-bus service was set to be discussed in October, with a final decision to be made at the beginning of 2025.

The Chair asked about the cuts to telephone landlines, Cllr Mocatta said that he had no news on this but that it looked to be deferred for at least one year.

## **8. SDNPA Report (SR)**

Cllr Ridgeon reported that the SDNPA Local Plan Review survey had now closed. The publishing of the draft Plan looked to be early next year with the adoption target being before the end of 2026.

In parallel to this the SDNPA Partnership Management Plan (a legal document required of all National Parks) was also being reviewed with the Parish Council to be included in the consultation.

## **9. Planning - Report by Chairman of the Planning Committee.**

Cllr Ridgeon reported that six applications had been submitted since the last meeting in July, three had been for dwellings, two for trees and one for a farm diversification. All had received a 'no objection' comment from the Parish Council.

With regards to the recent application on land behind Lower Farm which had been approved by EHDC on behalf of SDNPA, local residents were looking at options to challenge the decision.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Planning Committee would provide the residents a letter reiterating the Parish Council's comments objecting to the application, made throughout the application process.

## **10. Finance**

### **a. Finance including payments and receipts report (16 July – 16 September)**

The RFO presented her report on all payment and receipts between the dates of 16 July to the 16 September. Councillors unanimously approved.

### **b. Conclusion of Audit Notice**

The RFO informed Councillors that the Conclusion of Audit had been received from BDO with no comments to note and that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been displayed on the PC website and noticeboard as required.

### **c. Unity Trust Bank Account: to discuss monies to transfer.**

The RFO reported that the Unity Trust Bank account had now been opened and asked Cllrs to allow her to transfer excess funds from the HSBC account to conform to financial requirements. Cllr unanimously agreed to this.

### **d. APA date change to 28 April.**

The Clerk asked Councillors for permission to change the date for the APA to the 28 April, this date was agreed.

**e. .gov domain and email accounts**

The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation from the website hosts, Hugofox, that the .gov domain was now available and that this would be included in the website package with no extra charge. The .gov emails would be available soon and it was agreed in principal that these would be actioned by the Clerk.

**11. Any other business including correspondence of note.**

The Chair had received an email about the positioning of the new defibrillator along Coombe Road somewhere on the new "Penny Mile" site. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

New pads were required for existing defibrillators and due to the ongoing agreement, the PC were responsible for these. The Chair will sort these out with Clive Tillbrook.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:15pm.

Signed:

Date: