

**Parish Council Meeting
Held at East Meon Village Hall on
Monday 20 January 2025 at 18:30.**

Minutes

Present: Councillors Susan Davenport (Chair), Charles Ritchie (Vice Chair), Richard Downer, Matt Atkinson, Trudie Lang, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake and Jerry Silence.
County/District Councillor Rob Mocatta, Sam Marchant (PC), and 7 members of the public attended.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ridgeon and Cllr Round.
Cllr Mocatta joined the meeting at 7:30.

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 18 November 2024. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read.

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

4. Open Forum

The Chair invited those present to make their comments.
David Pepper and Village Hall Committee members declared that they were present to contribute to item 6a.

5. EMPC Report

The Chair presented the report for January, she thanked Councillors for their efforts in organising the works included in the report.
She noted that the resident who had wished to hire the Football Pitch for a wedding marquee had now informed her that they did wish to go ahead with the booking on the understanding the hire fee be reduced. This would be discussed at the March PC meeting.

She asked Cllrs to add the Future Energy workshop to their diaries in the hope that all could attend on 5th March.

6. Reports and Updates

a) Village Hall Future: to include proposed survey and framework (RD)

Cllr Downer reported that since the November PC meeting the Planning Committee had met with David Pepper to examine the Village Hall plans.

A number of points were raised including viability regarding the size of the project. It was concluded that more work was needed to be done to create a clear proposal for the PC to consider.

Councillors agreed for Cllr Downer to continue with the proposed framework with a further meeting of the two committees, including Andrew Hughes, set for 28th January.

(RD)

b) Sewage Workhouse Lane (SD)

The Chair reported that, she along with Mike Critchley, had met with representatives from Southern Water including the Survey Operator in December. Properties had been inspected to map surface water entering the sewage system, the results would be received in February.

Initial observations were that ground water was infiltrating pipes through cracks, the remedy for this would be either fully or partially to line the pipes along with regular jetting to prevent blockages building up.

A further meeting had been organised by the Chair to discuss action going forward.

(SD)

c) BOATs (SD)

The Chair informed Councillors that she hoped that the revised Byways Operation Procedure would be shared by Jonathon Woods (HCC) in March with a subcommittee meeting organised to discuss the final draft.

(SD)

d) Path across The Green (TTD)

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake informed Councillors that the works on the new path across The Green would begin when the weather improved.

(TTD)

e) Footpath and Highways (MA)

Cllr Atkinson informed Councillors that Brian Briggs continued to monitor the footpaths and byways.

Cllr Atkinson would continue to liaise with residents regarding cutting back hedges along public footpaths.

Regarding highways there were no expected closures to report in the village or on the A3.

(MA)

f) All Sports Pavilion & East Meon FC Vets (CR)

Cllr Ritchie informed Councillors that the East Meon FC Vets had had the pitch rolled and were continuing to hold matches. The second instalment of payment was due and would be followed up.

He was waiting on the contractor to fix the water leak in the roof previously discussed.

(CR)

g) Recycling Scheme (JS)

Cllr Sillence had been in touch with Norse, he had been advised that due to current recycling collections there were few other options to explore regarding batteries etc.

(JS)

h) Litter Pick (JS)

Cllr Sillence reminded Councillors that, weather permitting, the Community Litter Pick was to take place this Sunday, 26 January, and he hoped Councillors would be able to take part. He would be planning various routes for the volunteers, he had already collected the equipment needed and would be providing refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards.

(JS)

i) Lengthsman (TL)

Cllr Lang reported that there were 52 hours left to use of the scheme for 2024/2025 and that she along with the Clerk planned to meet the Lengthsman on site. She asked Councillors to send her job requests.

(TL)

j) Allotments: to include trees FM (TL/SRound)

Cllr Lang informed Councillors that she had written to allotment holders for the New Year and encouraged all to keep the allotments in good order.

(TL)

k) Frogmore Lane (RM)

It was reported that Frogmore Lane had deteriorated considerably and that the recent repairs to the potholes were considered as inadequate.

Cllr Mocatta said all he could do was encourage everyone to keep reporting any issues on the Ourhants app.

(PC)

l) Caretaker: Retirement of Chris Smith and appointment of Stuart Powney as Caretaker (SD/CR)

The Chair informed Councillors that Chris Smith had submitted his resignation, and that Stuart Powney would be filling the role. She wishes formally to thank Chris Smith for looking after the Pavillion and children's 2 play areas for many years. Cllr Ritchie was appointed the Councillor with overall responsibility.

(CR)

m) Defibrillator (SD)

The Chair reported that Clive Tillbrook was contacting the school to ask if the 4th defibrillator could be situated in front of the school just within the gate, once confirmed she would update Councillors via the EMPC report.

(SD)

m) Future Energy Landscapes Workshop (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon's written report had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting.

The workshop had been organised for Wednesday 5 March and Councillors were encouraged to attend.

(SR)

n) VE 80 Day Celebration of Peace 8 May (SD)

The Chair reported that the Village Hall been booked for a small event to commemorate the day and Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake would be lighting the beacon. A speaker to give a talk was still needed and any ideas of a volunteer were welcomed.

(SD/TTD)

7. Matters Arising

a) The Green/Parish grass cutting for 2024/25 (TTD)

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake informed Councillors that QLS had maintained costs regarding the grass cutting from the previous year. Councillors approved the contractor for 2025/2026.

QLS had also been asked to take on the grass cutting of the smaller PC areas of land following Chris Smith's proposed resignation in November.

(TTD)

b) Planting of memorial tree on The Green and deceased ashes (SD)

The Chair informed Councillors that she had been contacted by the daughter of a former resident of the Parish, who wished to plant a tree in her mother's memory and also hoped to scatter or bury her mother's ashes by the tree. The Tree Warden had suggested including it as one of a cluster of trees to be planted on The Green. This was accepted.

Councillors were in agreement for the ashes to be scattered, not buried, appropriately.

The Chair agreed to inform the relative of the PCs approval.

(SD)

c) EMPCC Churchyard maintenance grant request (SD)

The Chair informed Councillors that the EMPCC had put in their annual request for £500 to go towards the maintenance of the Churchyard.

Councillors approved the request with the Clerk to action.

(PC)

d) Village Hall grant request for Audio Visual Equipment (RD)

Cllr Downer introduced the Village Hall Committee's request for grant monies to go towards Audio Visual Equipment to be used by Moviola and other events.

The Councillors were in favour in principle however a detailed quotation was requested, to be supplied in time for the March PC meeting.

(RD/PC)

e) APA speaker (SD)

Two representatives from the Energise South Downs events team had agreed to speak at the APA on 28 April, where they would report on their findings from the Future Energy Landscapes Workshop in March.

f) Parish Award (SD)

The Chair put forward previously proposed candidates for the award. Councillors voted by show of hands and the successful recipient was agreed. The award would be presented at the APA in April.

(SD)

g) SDNPA Call for Projects 2025 (CR/RD)

This item was deferred to the March PC meeting.

(SR)

h) Shine Radio email re: sponsoring installation of antenna (SD)

The Chair introduced the request from Shine Radio for grant monies to install an antenna in the Parish.

Whilst the PC accepted the installation of the antenna at the proposed site, Councillors were not in favour of supporting the project financially.

(SD)

8. County/District Councillor report

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

9. Planning Committee written report: including SDNPA Local Plan details (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon's written report had been circulated before the meeting.

10. Environment & Nature written report (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon's written report had been circulated before the meeting.

11. Finance

a. Finance including payments and receipts report (12 November – 14 January)

The RFO presented her report on all payments and receipts between the dates of 12 November to the 14 January. Councillors unanimously approved.

b. new policy for adoption: Retention of documents & storage

It was agreed to defer to the March meeting for adoption.

12. Any other business including correspondence of note.

The Chair informed Councillors that the hire of the Football Pitch for a Wedding Marquee would be added to the March PC meeting for approval of a revised fee.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:25pm.

Signed:

Date: