

**Minutes of the Meeting of East Dean Parish Council**  
**16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm**  
**Held at East Dean Village Hall**

**Present:** Neil Georges-Chair, Sarah Peirson –Vice Chair, John Holt, Sam Hook and Sara Hutton-Potts

**Apologies** Josh Collins, Peter West and Jeremy Hunt West Sussex County Council

**In attendance:** Henry Potter – Chichester District Council  
Alexia Ward - Parish Clerk  
Five Parishioners

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were reviewed and approved.

#### **1. Matters arising from Minutes**

- Alexia Ward said that she had sent a note to be included in the next Valley Diary saying that the Parish Council were considering making a register of people requiring some assistance in times of need such as power cuts or bad weather from local parishioners. Alexia invited them to contact her and we would follow up if there was a need.
- Neil Georges thanked all those who turned up and assisted at the village clear up day on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Sam Hook said that some of the road drains were solid with mud and needed highways to clear them mechanically. The email reply from highways said that the drains were cleared routinely on a 1-4 year cycle .Neil said he would follow up as this seemed too long between maintenance.

#### **2. Update from District and County Councillors**

Jeremy Hunt sent his apologies to the meeting due to bad weather conditions. Jeremy sent his report by email which was circulated to the parish council. Jeremy's report followed up the matter the parish council raised about the signage at the top of East Dean Hill at the Pilley Green crossroads. Jeremy said he had chased Highways twice with no response and was still awaiting the outcome of a site visit report from one of the highway stewards.

Henry Potter sent his report by email which was circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting. Henry's report included details of meetings going to take place about the Local Plan, All Parishes Meeting and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who invited representatives from OFWAT, the Marine Advisor from Natural England, the CEO of Southern Water and the area director of the Environment Agency for the Solent and Downs to answer questions about the issues faced by our district in connection with Sewage treatment and Flooding.

#### **3. Financial Update**

Alexia Ward said the balance of the Lloyds Current Account on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 was £4,773.55 which included a donation of £2,000.00 to the Parish Council from the Sussex Martyrs Production Ltd for filming in the village. Alexia said she had paid Keith Goacher £132.00 for cutting the bank opposite the Old Vicarage and the triangle by the entrance to the church carpark and Martin Gibbard for grass seed to repair Pond Green after bonfire night and to patch some worn areas.

Alexia said that the balance on the Helen West (legacy) savings account was £19,877.99 which included interest of £15.15.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Alexia said she had been contacted by Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice to ask if the Parish Council would consider a contribution of £50.00 towards their core funding costs. The council agreed to make this contribution as we have done so in the past. Alexia said she would make the payment.

Alexia had been updated about the review of the District Local Plan which is now almost complete and will be put to Cabinet and then to Full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> for endorsement, and if agreed will be open for public consultation for six weeks.

Sarah Peirson had been contacted by Bruno Peek, Pageant Master to thank us for our involvement in the celebration of our late Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> Platinum Jubilee. Bruno also informed the parish that there will be no Beacons lit to celebrate the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles 3<sup>rd</sup> in June as Buckingham Palace are anxious to ensure that events planned for May 2023 have a markedly different look to those of June 2022. However it has been agreed that beacons should be lit on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as the principle leading event to the commemoration to D-Day 80. Further information will be provided later and the Parish Council can then make plans as to how to commemorate D-Day 80.

Alexia received an email from Westhampnett Clerk concerning the planning application at Rolls Royce. Neil Georges said he would contact their chair to discuss their concerns.

Alexia was sent the information to agree the precept for 2023/2024 by CDC. The Parish Council decided by email, as the due date was before our meeting, to keep the precept as low as possible during these uncertain times of the cost of living crisis. The precept has been agreed at £1,139.00 and CDC notified.

Neil Georges was contacted by Clive Jackson, Manor Farm Barns, to say he had been approached by Jill Mountford's family to see if he would take over the role as footpath warden for East Dean Parish which she had been doing for a number of years. Clive is willing to take up the voluntary role if approved by the council. The Parish Council agreed to invite Clive to take on the role.

#### **5. Update on flooding and sewerage**

Alexia Ward reported the leaking man hole on Pond Green on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to Southern Water who have subsequently provided a pump and filter with an environmental agency licence. The pumping system is required due to the substantial ingress into the sewage system due to high water table and springs. Neil Georges will follow up with Southern Water to see what improvements can be made.

Due to the springs and volume of water on Pond Green sandbags have been prepared and distributed to those who need with more available if required. The sleeper bridge over the river by Oak Cottage was removed so the flow from the pond was not impeded. It was noted that the work carried out by John Holt to the river bed behind the houses along Charlton Road has improved the flow and hopefully reduced the risk of flooding.

#### **6. Update and Highways**

Neil said that after the springs have receded there will be pot holes which will need reporting to highways.

#### **7. Update from Parish Councillors**

Sara Hutton - Potts and Sam Hook had looked at some options for planting a wild flower area on Pond Green. Sara thought that it may cost up to £400.00 but another suggestion was to get parishioners to contribute flower seeds and have a community planting event.

John Holt said that he would finalise the Winter Management and set up the WhatsApp group to replace the phone tree. Neil Georges suggested that the plan should be reviewed in the near future.

Sarah Peirson said that there had been no objections from Councillors re the planning application at the Stables and had notified the CDC.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- Neil Georges thanked everyone who was involved with the Christmas tree and lights on Pond Green.
- Neil asked if the council would agree to the clerk being able to claim for some expenses for stationery and he warned that there may be a time when a new/second hand lap top is required for the parish council clerk to use. The council agreed to pay expenses.
- Sam Hook asked if the Helen West Legacy could be used to benefit the parish outside its original intention. Further discussion is needed.
- Sarah Peirson asked if there would be some celebrations in the village for the Coronation of King Charles 3rd. Vicky Mudford, Village Hall Chair, said that she hoped there would be some celebration and it would be discussed at the next committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.
- Neil Georges explained to the council that he thought it may be helpful to the PC to have a small sub group of parishioners to advise and help with some of the ongoing maintenance tasks around the village. The council agreed that it would be a good idea to approach the relevant people and discuss what they would be prepared to do.

### **Date of Next Meetings**

17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 AGM at 7.00pm and Meeting at 7.30pm

17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm

### **At East Dean Village Hall**