

EXTON PARISH MEETING 21/10/2024 AT THE SHOE INN, EXTON

MINUTES

1) Apologies for absence

Maxim Crewe
Tim Constable (our Preshaw representative)
Pete Whittard
Guy Barron
Tina Blackmore
Bob Miles
Eleanor Garner
Sue Robertson
Sarah Bengé
Ann Martin
Paul Ferrier

2) Minutes of previous meeting

Passed as a true record. Proposed by Tim Mellor, seconded by Jill Hignett.

One correction in the minutes - Tim Collins to Tim Constable (incorrect surname in minutes)

3) Matters arising not on the agenda

- Thanks were received from George Miles and the Meon Hall for the donations agreed at the last meeting.
- North entrance to Exton - Good news the tree has been rightened, but is still leaning towards the farm and more work is needed to push it back to straighten it. Kevin to arrange a working party for this action. A thank you to Chris, Kevin, Steve, Paul, Tim and Richard for undertaking this task. However, Highways rejected application to replace the "Not Suitable for Heavy Vehicles" sign at the northern entrance to Exton. The response was that they had visited the site and that "the inspection found that the issue reported did not meet their risk-based safety criteria which are aligned with the national Code of Practice".
- The ditch from Grove Cottage to the junction of Shoe Lane/Church Lane has been cleared. Highways did leave the verge in a mess. A thank you to Steve and Pete who tidied the verge with strimmers. The verge by the junction of Shoe Lane/Church Lane to Riversdale has not been cleared. Jill Hignett to report this to Highways.
- The road closure sign is laying in the verge. Juliet to report this to Highways for collection.

4) Chair Report

Welcome and Thanks

- Welcomed Malcolm Wallace, our new councillor on Hampshire County Council and Terena Plowright from the Greening Campaign.
- Thanked Jerry Pett and Neil Bolton our WCCs for being approachable and supportive and for attending our meetings so regularly.
- Thanked The Shoe for hosting our bi-annual meetings.

2. Overview of Role of Parish Meeting

- A Parish Meeting is an informal gathering of all electors in a small parish (typically less than 200 electors). It provides a forum for discussion of the parish's affairs and concerns.
- In contrast to a Parish Council, its members are not elected, it has no legal powers or duties and cannot make legally-binding decisions or take actions on behalf of the parish.
- The Parish Meeting Chair's primary role is therefore to facilitate the discussion, to ensure it is appropriately documented in the minutes and to be a conduit for information relating to local affairs.
- The Parish Chair may, in some circumstances, raise with local government issues which are in the interests of the parish as a whole or for which there is majority agreement amongst the electors.
- In many cases, however, an individual elector's submissions carries as much weight as that of the Parish Chair.

3. Village Engagement

One of the objectives of the Parish Meeting committee over the coming year is to encourage newcomers to our communities to become more involved in village life by

- engaging with new residents and hopefully get them to sign up to the Parish Meeting distribution list
- planning more village events for 2025

4. Felicity Hindson

Felicity Hindson of Bramcote House turns 90 on 26 October.

Over many years Felicity served our community as an HCC and a church warden.

It was agreed to send flowers and a card from the Parish Meeting.

5. Exton Park Vineyard

- Malcolm Isaacs, the owner of Exton Park Vineyard since 2008, passed away recently at the age of 95. His funeral was in Exton church on Friday 11th October.
- Robin McMillan, Exton Park's CEO, has asked me to pass on his appreciation and thanks to the Exton community for its patience and understanding during this well attended event.
- The planning applications submitted in October 2023 to align the conditions of use under the planning approvals with their alcohol licence are still under consideration by the South Downs planning team.

- Consultation resulted in an amendment to the application being submitted by Exton Park in May which set a maximum number of visitors per year of 5000.
- The latest update from the LPA is that no decision has been made on the application as they have been working with the highways authority and requested the applicant submit more accurate transport trends so that a formal response can be made.

5) **Council reports**

Links below to the Council Reports:

[Sep Parish Update.pdf](#)

[2024-10 HCC Councillor Update.pdf](#)

Jerry checked that everyone was 'ok' with the new Monday bin collection day. The consensus was yes. Jerry pointed out that from 2025, food waste bins would be provided. Discussion took place on how these would work. Jerry explained villagers would be provided with an extra lockable bin for food waste and a small waste caddy for the kitchen. The lockable bin would be collected alongside other rubbish, probably weekly. Concerns were raised about storing such things as chicken carcasses in it, especially over the summer. Councillor Malcolm Wallace said the rubbish is disposed of responsibly via an anaerobic digester and the aim of the caddy was to reduce waste.

Other points added by Jerry:

- Beavers are being introduced in East Meon, they will be fenced in.
- Vitacress will be planting watercress in the Warnford water beds.

6) **Treasurer's report**

- Income and Spend through the year has been as follows

Opening Balance	25 th March 2024	£3,049
Spend / Income		
Website		-£155
Meon Hall		-£200
Precept	2024/5	£675
Gift to G Miles		-£240
Payment for Web Email (Wrong reference on Statement)		-£30
Website Sponsorship		£185

• Crossways B&B • Exton Park Vineyard • The Shoe Inn • S Reed • YouBoat		
Closing Balance	21 st October 2024	£3,284

- Copies of all statements and cheque books are available to review, please contact Kevin Robertson, at 1 Crossways to arrange a time
- Our accounts are audited, independently, however I have registered the Parish as Exempt from a limited assurance review, as the monies involved are so small and we have no other assets

7) Village website

Kevin read out the stats below for the website:

Month	Visitors	Views
March	70	110
April	49	229
May	25	90
June	66	222
July	21	41
August	29	55
September	20	55
October		
November		
December		
Average	43	125



Any comments/feedback either use website form or email Juliet.

Website address: extonparishmeeting.com/

8) Highways/Foopaths

- Jennie reported the footpath by the stud is now passable. Any other concerns/issues about footpaths speak to Jennie.
- Concerns raised about the potholes in the village, especially in Church Long running alongside the back of Exton House. Councillors present, advised to report these individually as more reports of the problem could get them fixed quicker.
- Concerns were raised about parking problems in Exton, particularly from patrons of The Shoe (Kevin gave a stat of 14000 annual visitors to the Shoe) and the walkers being the biggest influx. Discussions took place on how this could be resolved, such as could we extend the car park by the Grinch, consider yellow lines, narrow the width of Shoe Lane, or traffic calming. Concerns were raised by villagers who did not live along Shoe Lane that this could potentially cause a problem with parking elsewhere in the village.
- Jerry Pett advised that Hampshire County Council does not have funding to help with the parking problem, but suggested we could we come up with a workable solution and fund it ourselves or put a proposal into Highways for consideration.

9) Greening Campaign across Meonstoke and Exton

Terena Plowright from Meonstoke gave an overview of what is the Greening campaign and how it could work for us working together with Meonstoke.

The greening campaign receives lottery funding and helps communities to get people greener. Some examples of the projects that we could get involved in are:

- A space for nature (for example encouraging more swifts).
- Growing food.
- Lending out a thermal imaging camera to find out where heat is being lost in properties.
- Circulating toys around the village.
- Nappy libraries and awareness of these.

Some examples of how it could work for Exton with Meonstoke:

- We could support each other in our projects.
- We could share volunteers.
- We could lend/advise on the thermal imaging camera.

David Frere-Cooke said an otter had very sadly got run over down by the Grynch and otter bridges had been built in other places under the road to help them. Terena Plowright said this is exactly what the project is about and there would probably be funding available for this. David action to go and find out more about the bridges under the roads etc. to help protect the otters.

Some examples of what collaboration/awareness could look like:

- We could do it as a sub group/discuss at parish meeting.
- Set up events for awareness.
- We could report on what we are doing and successes.
- Hold an event in the Meon Hall.
- Have an article in the Bridge.
- Explain the event to people to get them to join up.
- Could set up a Whatsapp group.

Brian Thorpe-Tracey kindly offered to be the representative for the Greening campaign. Action for Brian Thorpe Tracey to contact Terena Plowright. Heather to give Brian email address for Terena.

Steve Reed was “volunteered” to be shown how to use the thermal imaging. Steve happy to undertake this task.

Maxim emailed prior to meeting that he was unable to attend, but he would be supportive of us trying to enrol in the Greening campaign.

10) **Preshaw**

No updates from Preshaw as Tim Constable was absent.

11) **Meon Hall**

Financial:

Monetary assets- £116,196

This included a legacy from Jeff White's family for £4,700 and a grant from the Parish Council.

I was asked to pass on grateful thanks, from the committee , for the grant from Exton Parish Meeting of £200 towards grass cutting.

General Maintenance:

Gutters have been cleared and flashing has been repaired.

Trees have been pruned.

Work on outdoor lighting is in progress.

Leaf sweeping has begun.

200 Club:

This has 331 members and yields £2,500 net after prizes.

Bookings:

Bookings were satisfactory and generating a good income.

Solar Panels:

Discussions are still ongoing regarding Solar Panels and a Structural Engineer wants to undertake further inspection of the roof to ensure safety.

Beetle Drive:

The Annual Beetle Drive will be held on Saturday 30th November 2024.

12) **Church Update**

Richard kindly gave the following update:

When the Revd Andy Davis was appointed as priest in charge of the Meon Valley Parishes the avowed intention was that he be supported by house for duty or self supporting priests in his work across the seven parishes. A little pressure has been brought to bear on the powers that be and I'm delighted to tell you that the PCCs of the Bridge benefice have been asked if they will accept the bishop's nomination of a priest to live in the Rectory in Meonstoke. Exton's PCC has agreed to this. The intention is that the priest will be paid a part salary as well as having the house for duty which means that the appointment is for more than Sunday services and one or two days a week. We don't know anything about the nominee yet and it will be up to a committee of three, one from each parish in the benefice to decide with the bishop and the archdeacon and Andy Davis if the nominee is suitable. I will keep you up to date as and when there is more news.

13) **AOB**

- Christmas Fete 30th November
- Carol Service 22nd December

All events will be on the website.

Village design statement needs reviewing – Heather to take this away as an action.

South Downs National Park Authority plan requires reviewing. Chair asked for any volunteers to work on the SDNPA. Chrissie kindly offered to lead together with the support of Helly, Glynne and Brian.

Kevin to build a link on the website for the SDNPA.

Heather asked if everyone wanted an email sent out when new items have been posted on the website, consensus was yes. This will be reviewed again at next AGM.

Sue to organise a Christmas meal.

Glynne said that he was 'ok with making wine in the village, but had concerns regarding the Exton Park Vineyard planning application and the amount of traffic this could generate', and that a group of **concerned** residents had met to put a paper together **detailing their view on why planning consent should be refused. This had been submitted to Planning, a copy of which can be requested from Glynne Benge.**

Glynne asked Jerry Pett if the system is being applied fairly when it has been going on since May 2024, and are planning having conversations with applicant rather than listening to views of residents/objectors, also concerned that not being listened to, or the village is not being considered.

Jerry responded that as we are only a Parish meeting we could not have a representative, however Jerry has asked legal advisors if the Chair could have 3 minutes at the meeting. If Chair does get the opportunity to speak at the meeting, it was asked what would be said and Chair wanted it noted that they should be impartial. It was suggested to put it to a vote on how we want to proceed? Jerry said if they decide to go ahead there is a legal executive who could review the meeting.

Jerry also advised that we have been told by the case officer that, given that there has already been an increase in the number of events through 2024, EPV has been asked to provide 'actual' rather than 'predicted' traffic movement data to inform the decision-making process and that the data will be the subject of further public consultation.

End of Meeting.

Next date of meeting Monday 31st March 2025 at the Shoe Inn, Exton.

The minutes of the last meeting are on the village notice board.

Actions from meeting

Verge by the junction of Shoe Lane/Church Lane to Riversdale has not been cleared. Jill Hignett to report this to Highways.	Jill
The road closure sign is laying in the verge. Juliet to report this to Highways for collection.	Juliet
North entrance to Exton – Good news the tree has been rightened, but is still leaning towards the farm and more work is needed to push it back to straighten it. Kevin to arrange a working party for this action.	Kevin
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Arrange Christmas meal	Sue