

EAST HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS

Chair: Cllr Nigel Harrison (nigel.harrison@grayshott-pc.gov.uk)
Secretary: Lucie Thornton (assistant.clerk@grayshott-pc.gov.uk)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION held online via Teams on Monday 29th January 2024

In attendance:

Brian Foster (Clanfield) (in the Chair, acting), Nigel Harrison (Grayshott), (incoming Chair) Lucie Thornton (Grayshott) (incoming Secretary)

Ruth Duffin (Beech), Terry Collins (Clanfield), Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake (East Meon), Sandra Nichols (East Tisted), Karin Black (Four Marks), Reg Pullen (Four Marks), Andy Redding (Horndean), Debbie Luff (Langrish), Cheryl Walder (Langrish) Keith Budden (Liss)

Also: Robert Pettigrew, Hampshire ALC
Sarah Goudie, Hampshire ALC

Apologies.

Apologies had been received from: David Caukill (Hawkleay) Peter Curnow-Ford (Bramshott & Liphook), and Buriton Parish Council

The acting Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending this resurrection of the EHAPTC meetings. A brief overview was given of the District Association being an open forum to share ideas and be a collective voice for local issues and the link to Hampshire ALC and NALC. The District Association will appoint three members to represent the Association at HALC meetings. The elected Chairman will also sit on the County Forum (replacing the County Executive).

The Association meets four times a year and is open to both Councillors and Clerks. The dates/times and format of the meetings will be decided later on the Agenda.

1. Election of Chair

The first item of business was to elect a Chairman. Nigel Harrison was nominated and voted as Chairman unanimously. Keith Budden was elected as Vice Chairman. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Brian Foster, as the existing representative for continuity, will represent the District Association at Hampshire ALC meetings.

Lucie Thornton had volunteered and was accepted as Secretary. There is a small remuneration for carrying out this service.

2. Minutes – The Minutes of the previous meeting were not available.

3. Presentation by Robert Pettigrew, Hampshire ALC Community Resilience Planning, Martyn's Law and Hampshire ALC update

Robert thanked the Association for the invitation to attend and advised of a format change at Hampshire ALC with the change from the County Executive to the County Forum. There would be two meetings a year, with the first in June.

Robert advised that some recent Community Resilience Planning events had taken place in Winchester and advised the meeting of the impending Martyn's Law, which had recently been referenced in the Kings Speech and would become law, and this will affect any Councils or Event Organisers that have venues that cater for 100+ people. Although HALC and other are lobbying for an increase in this number as for many it will incur high costs with more far-reaching implications.

Robert advised that he is interested in views on all topics raised and wants to engage with all districts.

Talking further on the Resilience Forms, where advice was given on town and parish emergency planning and advised that there is a keenness and readiness to work with Town and Parish Councils on all aspects of emergency planning, such as flooding and power outages. There is a growing appetite for a joined-up approach, not just for major events but for minor events. A programme is being developed spanning all possible areas, maybe by desktop activities, but it needs to be relevant and useful to all.

Ruth Duffin (Beech) agreed that this is a great idea, particularly as there had been a recent incident where the fire service was unable to find a water supply.

The acting Chair also agreed that lessons could be learned from each other, where ideas could be gleaned from other councils for their own emergency planning programme.

Karin Black (Four Marks) did advise caution with the County budget costs and lack of resources, which would need to be taken into consideration, and not taking on services that should be provided by the County.

The plans need to be easily accessible and circulated to the relevant services, so if there is an incident, those services know, for example, that the Village Hall is the designated safe space and who to contact. The dots need to be joined up and fed in.

Moving on to Martyn's Law, Robert indicated that there are implications from the Law that may not be immediately obvious, but to be prepared and ready at an early stage.

Nigel Harrison (Grayscott) advised that he had already done some research on how this would affect parish councils, and whether the figure of 100+ would affect outdoor events, but it appears that it would only apply for controlled entry. For non-controlled entry, for example a summer fete, the limit would not apply.

Karin Black (Four Marks) questioned Robert as to how likely it would be that the limit would be raised. Robert responded in that if enough people respond to the six-week consultation, there may be enough to persuade government that the proposed limit needs to be reviewed.

Debbie Luff remarked that there needs to be a strong steer on requirements for guidance, as there will be obligations, but the key is to be aware of the responsibilities.

Sandra Nichols (East Tisted) asked if Councils could be advised as and when the consultations are live. Robert agreed to take this action back to Hampshire ALC.

4. Any other matters

1. Karin Black (Four Marks) raised concern over the poor finishing of pavement and road repairs, not being sealed correctly, and what can be done to raise this issue. The acting Chair concurred and agreed that is a problem county wide, and although this is something you can raise directly with your County Councillors, through this forum as a collective voice there maybe something that could be taken to HCC.

Action: Nigel Harrison suggested that maybe a letter from the Association and an invitation to a member of Hampshire Highways to the next meeting.

2. Debbie Luff (Langrish) raised awareness of the current consultation being run by HCC in their bidj to save £133m with budget cuts, which includes the proposed closures of waste recycling facilities, as well as other areas, and advised all parish councils to submit a response and publicise as much as possible. Full details are on the HCC website, and Sarah Goudie advised that the link and detail are contained within the latest Hampshire ALC Newsletter, as are details of all relevant consultations. Andy Redding (Horndean) also suggested using all means of community engagement to promote and share information. E.g. Social media/Facebook.

3. Ruth Duffin (Beech) advised of the speeding issue and although they have installed cameras, there is a lack of response by the police to the information given by the council when vehicles are caught speeding through the village and was there anything that could be done to change this.
4. Debbie Luff advised of a meeting that had been arranged with Jonathan Woods (HCC) with reference to BOATS at East Meon Village Hall at 2.00pm on 8th February, all welcome.
5. Other future topics for consideration in addition to those above for meetings raised were; waste collection, planning, homelessness, police presence and climate change.
6. The Acting Chair agreed to collect all the documentation from a previous secretary later in the week, including the banking information, which would then enable the previous Secretary (Jane Ives) to be paid for her previous service.

5. Format and Venue of Future Meetings

After a short debate it was agreed that although virtual meetings were easier, there was still a need to interact in person and socialise, so therefore it was agreed to have at least one meeting in person, which would be the AGM in the Summer.

Attendees were also asked which day of the week was preferred and after debate and vote, it was suggested that Wednesday was the most popular, with a request from Reg Pullen (Four Marks) for them to be on the second or fourth Wednesdays so they didn't clash with their Council meetings.

It was agreed to keep the start time of 7.30pm.

At this point the acting Chair Brian Foster handed over the Chair to Nigel Harrison. Robert thanked Sarah Goudie for setting up and attending the meeting, to which she asked for the thanks to be passed on to Amy Taylor who had carried out all the administrative work, and that she was just standing it that evening.

6. **Date of Next EHAP&TC Meeting – Spring 2024 via Teams, date to be advised. AGM would be in June (in person).**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm