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East Meon's elder statesman, Mr. Herbert Goddard, has announced his intention of retiring from the parish council. He told members at their meeting last week that he would not be seeking re-election this year, thus ending an unbroken record of 33 years membership of the council — the last 15 as chairman.

Mr. Goddard, a local garage proprietor, has long been involved in all aspects of village life and played a notable role in the scheme which provided the village with a fine, new hall.

He will take the chair for the last time at the annual parish meeting and parish council meeting in March.

Members heard that a local resident's campaign for a 30 m.p.h. speed limit for the village had resulted in a meeting between the chairman and a representative from Hampshire County Council. This was to be followed by a survey of traffic flow during February.

BUILDINGS

The dilapidated state of buildings at Frogmore was the subject of a meeting between Mr. Goddard and the farmer, Mr. Stanley Jones. The chairman said the farmer acknowledged the condition of the buildings, but claimed he had been unable to take action because his right of way to the buildings was continually blocked by vehicles.

Members said they were unable to accept this argument, though they agreed there was an obstruction problem, but it occurred only in the evenings and at week-ends.

The council decided to ask Mr. Jones to do something about the buildings and, at the same time, to ask the Divisional Road Surveyor if a plan can be evolved for providing an alternative parking site for

the vehicles which block the right of way.

A letter from the East Hampshire District Council said it had taken up with the owner of Lower House Farm the matter of leaking effluent and that remedial work was being carried out. The council noted that the situation had improved and decided no further action was needed at present.

The council received from the Parochial Church Council the accounts in connection with the overhaul of the church clock and installation of electric winding, and agreed a contribution of 80 per cent. — £340 — towards the cost.

Strong objections by the parish council to a proposal by West Meon to include Westbury House in that parish have been supported by the East Hampshire District Council.

The district council's policy for allocation of council homes was the subject of a short discussion and Mr. G. C. Brook, district councillor, explained it was based on a points system with need as the over-riding factor, and was more important than residential qualifications or links with the local area.

SETBACK

Hopes of providing a car park on land west of Coppice Cottages received a setback. The district council disagrees with the council and discounts the proposal on the grounds of lack of adequate sightlines and proximity to a bend.

Members felt there was a need, and several referred to the problems currently faced by vehicles, especially farm

implements, in trying to negotiate the narrow lane when a number of cars were parked outside the council houses.

Mr. Wilson Atkinson said that partial levelling and a top dressing of hoggins was all that was needed to make a car park, while Mr. D. Ryder urged the council to make application for planning permission, even though it was district council land.

It was agreed to ask the district council to send a representative to discuss the problem, preferably on a Saturday morning when the parking problem was especially evident.

DETRIMENTAL

The council received notice of a planning application to erect a bungalow and a pair of garages on land at Sebastopol Cottages, Temple Lane, and decided to object on the grounds that the development would be detrimental to character of that part of the village and additional vehicles would create further problems in Temple Lane.

There was concern that a notice had been erected close to the footpath and bridleway crossing the Westbury House estate which warned against trespassing. The chairman said this was misleading to the public, and it was agreed to ask the district council to mark the right of way as soon as possible.

Various road repair matters are to be referred to the Divisional road Surveyor, including the river retaining wall in the village which was reported to have suffered frost damage.