

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 4th April 2016 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Terry Cook Jenny Martin
Simon Bridger Graeme Fairley Peter Cruttenden
Nick Hurst

In Attendance: Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Minute Item Action

16/39 **APOLOGIES** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Spurdle. Cllr. Thackrey was also absent.

16/40 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda. None declared.

16/41 **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

16/42 **FINANCE**

(a) The following cheques were approved and signed for April payment:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100071	£260.00	Hant Assoc Local Councils	HALC Affiliation fees
100072	£53.00	Hant Assoc Local Councils	NALC Affiliation fees
100073	£520.00	J. Hollington	Clerk - March
100074	£250.00	F. Box	Steep History Project (District Councillor Grant)

(b) It was noted that, despite the precept remaining at £14,000 for 2016/17 (as per previous year), this is shown on Council Tax demands as a 14.3% increase. The Clerk has queried this with EHDC who say that it is due to fluctuation in numbers of houses in the band d category. The Clerk has requested further detail and is awaiting a response.

16/43 **SITE ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Site Assessment Working Group has been operating for approximately 6-months and is making good progress. A list of potential sites has been developed and these have been assessed in a desk top exercise based largely on SDNPA criteria; discussions have been held with respective site owners; sites have been visited and informal soundings taken with the National Park.

According to the original timetable, the group should now have been moving towards a public consultation on a limited number of sites, to be held sometime in June. However, it is now apparent that a number of external factors affecting this important decision are still fluid – in particular the process for finalising and adopting the SDNPA's Local Plan which is likely to be delayed by at least 6-months.

The Group therefore proposed that further work should be postponed for the time being and the status of the external factors reviewed again in September – this proposal was unanimously agreed. A Working Group report will be sent to the Parish Newsletter Team for inclusion in the May edition.

GF/
PC

16/44 THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

An advert for a Parish Lengthsman is being advertised on the Steep village website and noticeboards and has also been sent to each of the 5 participating parishes for advertising within their neighbourhood.

It was agreed that the other parishes should be asked if they would like to be involved with the interview process, alongside the Chairman and Clerk (as lead parish).

Clerk

16/45 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Cllr. Cook said that he has now had an opportunity to drive around the parish with Connor Morris from HCC Highways to discuss roads issues. As yet there has been no confirmation of proposed actions, but the conversation had been positive. Verbally, it had been agreed that flooding issues in Ashford Lane and Mill Lane in Steep, and Elmwood Corner and opposite HASTE in Steep Marsh, would be addressed.

However, with regard to concerns over the condition of the sunken lanes, Connor said that it is EHDC's responsibility to sweep them – and this is not currently being carried out. It was agreed that a strongly worded letter should be sent to EHDC (copied to District Councillor, Nick Drew) to insist that a sweep of the lanes is scheduled for the parish each year in late Autumn.

Clerk

16/46 STEEP COMMON

- (a) "No Parking" Sign for gate – A proposal from Signs Express was circulated – however, it was agreed that the sign would look better if it is was to run along the top bar of the gate, rather than A4 sized as shown.
- (b) Queen's Birthday Celebration – It was agreed that permission should be granted for a community event to be held on Steep Common during the afternoon/early evening of Saturday, 11th June. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Came & Co. with regard to insurance for the event, and with the working party organising activities.
- (c) Waste Bin – The offer from Petersfield Town Council to empty the dog waste bin at a cost of £3.50 per lift was discussed. The service would be carried out fortnightly during the winter and weekly during the summer (approx. £150 per year). It was unanimously agreed that this offer should be accepted.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

16/47 FOOTPATHS

A footpath report was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached to these minutes:

Footpaths 10, 11 and 2 - The Chairman confirmed that the kissing gates, which it was hoped that Steep were to be given for use on these footpaths, have been used by HCC elsewhere. Peter Durnell, who has taken over from Jim Hobson as HCC Ranger, hopes to get hold of some more. The Chairman will continue to chase this.

Chair

Footpaths 13 and 36 - Cllr. Martin confirmed that she is waiting to hear from the Small Grant Scheme with regard to deadline dates for grant applications before these projects can be progressed. A list of potential future projects with approximate costings will be produced for the next meeting.

JM

Footpath 1 - The Clerk reported that this footpath off Ridge Common Lane is currently impassable

due to overgrown hedges and the very boggy path. Cllr. Martin will follow this up.

JM

Walks Pamphlets - The deadline for the 2015/16 District Councillor grant funding towards the production of the pamphlets had been missed and will be re-submitted for the current financial year as soon as possible.

**Chair/
Clerk**

BOATS 31/33 - It was agreed that the drainage issue at BOAT 33 (the Old Coach Road) is currently not a major issue and that the £200 donated by the motor club should be re-directed to drainage on BOAT 31 through Lythe Hanger.

JM

16/48 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- EHDC Devolution Workshop – The Chairman confirmed he is able to attend.
- Ashford Hangers Walk through the Hangers for Parish representatives – 15th June.

16/49 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – Tuesday, 24th May - RAF Odiham have confirmed their attendance. Drinks and nibbles will be available during the interval between the Annual Parish Assembly and the Annual Meeting of the Council. It was agreed that the cost of refreshments should be paid from the Chairman's allowance.

Clerk

16/50 JUNE MEETING IN STEEP MARSH – The Chairman will speak to Marcus Neal at the Brickyards to see if it would be possible to hold the meeting there.

Chair

Because of the number of May/June Meetings (APA, AGM and Steep Marsh P.C. Meeting) it was agreed that the Village Hall Trustee Meeting would be pushed back from 13th June to Monday, 4th July (the same evening as the Parish Council Meeting).

16/51 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Council **Tuesday, 24th May 2016 at 7.00 p.m. at Steep Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.