

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 12th December 2011 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Caroline Robinson (in the Chair)
Suzi Openshaw Jim MacDonald
Graham Banks

Terry Cook
Jenny Martin

In Attendance:
Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

There was 1 member of the Public present.

11/139 APOLOGIES: - Cllrs. Simon Bridger and Charles Gibson

11/140 ABSENT – Cllr. Nick Hurst

11/140 MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 7th November and 28th November were agreed as accurate records of the meeting and signed accordingly.

11/141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

11/142 PUBLIC COMMENT – There were no comments from the public.

11/143 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SDNP/53605	Single storey extension to side with lantern roof light	Sandpit Cottage, Ridge Common Lane, Stroud GU32 1AY	No Objection
SDNP/53494	Single storey side/rear extensions, 3-storey stairwell, extension to front, remodelling of all facades, revised fenestration/doors throughout, new roof design and new detached garage (following demolition of existing	14 Church Road, Steep GU32 2DW	No Objection
SDNP/25329/004	<u>Listed Building Consent</u> - Retention of stand-alone demountable dog kennel to side	Vine Cottage, Bell Hill, Petersfield GU32 2DP	No Objection (with comment)
SDNP/26288/005	Orangery to Rear	Steeple, Mill Lane, Steep GU32 2DJ	No Objection
SDNP/33228/002	Wood burning stove and external flue	Little Ashford Barn, Ashford Lane, Steep GU32 1AA	No Objection

11/143 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON STEEP COMMON – Cllr. Jim MacDonald reported on the meeting with the Tree Warden, to discuss problems related to the annual bonfire and firework event, and the protected oak tree. It was suggested that future bonfires be moved 3-4 m further away from the school and the protected tree, towards the east of the Common, and that two self-seeded oak saplings on that side be felled and removed. Other minor trees such as willow and a further sapling oak should also be

removed at the same time. A further reduction in height of the bonfire to 4 m will be necessary in order to prevent further damage to the Oak. The area to the north of the bonfire site is within the area designated as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) and this area should be preserved as much as possible

With regard to the firework area, this year smoke from the fireworks hung about within the area. It was recommended that the birch trees (which are old and close to the limit of their healthy life span) should be pollarded at about 8 feet, leaving the stumps to provide wildlife habitat and that two small beech be lifted and transplanted to help improve air circulation.

Councillors AGREED to accept the Tree Warden's recommendations for Steep Common.

Cllr. MacDonald was asked to write an article for the Newsletter so that residents are aware of what is going on and to liaise with the Tree Warden regarding the necessity of a Felling Licence. It was also suggested and AGREED that the trees to be felled should be marked with a cross well before work starts.

- 11/144 FINANCE - REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE - Councillors considered the Vicar's request for financial support towards the cost of a community Christmas tree to be sited at the Village Hall. Cllr. MacDonald proposed that, although rather too late to organise the event for this year, this community project should be approved in principle for next year when much earlier action should be taken.

Councillors AGREED that support be given to a Community Christmas tree and carol singing event for 2012. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the item be included on the July Agenda!

- 11/145 TIME-SCALE FOR ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE - The Chairman apologised that the draft document outlining proposed time scales (short, medium or long-term) for Parish Council response to the Parish Plan Questionnaire had not been finalised in time for the meeting. It was emphasised however, that this item would be a priority for the New Year.

The Chairman said she proposed to insert an item in the next Village Newsletter inviting volunteers from the Parish to form a Traffic Management Group and that she envisaged that the group should consist of 2 Parish Councillors, 2 members of the Parish Plan Steering Group and residents from all geographical points of the Parish. Councillors discussed the importance of inviting contribution from the Village in a number of areas, not just traffic management.

Councillors AGREED that the Chairman should produce an item regarding the Traffic Management Group for the next Newsletter.

- 11/146 BALLOT FOR PARISH REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS TO THE SDNPA - Cllr. MacDonald left the room while Councillors discussed the election of a parish representative to the South Downs National Park Authority as he is a candidate.

Councillors AGREED unanimously to vote for Cllr. MacDonald.

- 11/147 MEETING DATES 2012 - It was AGREED that the June Parish Council Meeting should be brought forward to Monday, 28th May 2012 as Monday, 4th June is a Bank Holiday (and 11th is the Village Hall AGM). The Clerk was asked to amend the list of dates and re-circulate.

- 11/148 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 9th January 2012 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.