

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting held on 10th January 2011 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Caroline Robinson Fran Box Charles Gibson
Nick Hurst Richard Coles Terry Cook
Jenny Martin

In Attendance: Vaughan Clarke (District Councillor)
Jenny Hollington (Clerk)
Richard Lushington, Bursar

There was 1 member of the Public present.

APOLOGIES: David Llewellyn.

11/01 MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meetings held on 1st November and 6th December were agreed as accurate records and signed accordingly.

11/02 MATTERS ARISING – A query arose as to what had happened with regard to the proposed Community Christmas Tree and Carol Singing event. The Clerk said that she and the Vicar felt there was not enough time to organise the event properly as the go ahead was not given until 6th December. It was agreed that this item should be considered at the September 2011 Meeting to enable proper planning for a December 2011 event.

11/03 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

11/04 PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were received with regard to Planning Application 21318

11/05 BEDALES' TRAFFIC PLAN

Richard Lushington, new Bursar of Bedales, was welcomed to the Meeting. He gave an informative update on the Bedales' Traffic Plan outlining the various steps in place to reduce the flow of traffic to do with the School through Church Road, including an extensive minibus scheme, maximised opportunities to have staff accommodated on site, improvements to the half term/end of term collection time, and widening to the entrance to avoid congestion at peak time, as well as improvements to the site line at the entrance to the School.

There was discussion with regard to the speed of delivery drivers, numbers of facilities vehicles and problems caused by bad parking in Church Road. Previous proposals by the Parish Council with regard to the creation of another entrance to the School or a one-way system were also hi-lighted as well as the possibility of an improved road through the grounds to enable deliveries from the Bell Hill entrance.

Councillors said that they are very appreciative of any assistance possible by the School to alleviate traffic problems in Church Road and thanked the Bursar for his help.

11/06 COUNTY COUNCILLOR COMMENT

Hampshire County Council will need to save £30.9m in 201/12 and a further £19m in 2012/13. This will come from a reduction in senior managers, non-replacement of staff who leave, overtime payments,

reduction in HATs and members' devolved budgets and procurement. There is also a problem with concessionary fares in that £13.3m was budgeted for this, but only £11.6 is being provided.

Large numbers of salt bins have been supplied to Parish Councils (Steep P.C. are on the waiting list). The County Council should be notified when the bins become empty. In very severe weather bins may not be filled as quickly as at other times as the main priority will be to salt the roads. It must also be noted that bins will not be refilled where it is clear people have taken the contents for use on private property. Four snow shovels have also been provided.

The new Localism Bill, shortly to go before Parliament will allow Councillors to publish their views, and discuss them with electors, on any subject and still have the right to vote on that subject, without declaring an interest.

11/07 SHIPWRIGHT'S WAY

The Chairman and the Clerk attended a meeting to discuss the proposed route of the Shipwright's Way. The Parish Council's concerns regarding the route as it passes through Kettlebrook Cottages and the Harrow, and the effect this would have on the fragile infra-structure, were raised and noted at the meeting.

11/08 LAND REGISTRATION

The Clerk reported that the registration of Parish Council owned land is now complete. The land held in Trust will be transferred over to Charity ownership in due course.

11/09 SALT BINS/SNOW SHOVELS

There has been no up-date from H.C.C. as to when the salt bins will be delivered. Concern was noted that the County Council may opt out of providing gritting in the area of the salt bin. It was also pointed out that it would be essential to appoint a responsible person in the close vicinity of each salt bin to ensure that they are not abused and that, ideally, they should be kept locked when not in use.

The Clerk had collected the four free snow shovels from H.C.C. It was agreed that these should be kept at key points around the village – the Village Hall, Aldersnapp Farm, Oakhurst Farm and Bowyers.

11/10 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Commons and Hangers: The progress report for the work on Steep Common was discussed. It was noted that the Safety Audit will take place on 13th January and that this is a condition of the grant from H.C.C. – this cost is not covered by the grant and will need to be paid for by the Parish Council. Concern was expressed at the cost of the deer fencing and the deadline date of 31st March. It was pointed out that the deer fencing is re-useable (although cannot be sold on) and that there would be some flexibility with regard to claiming back the money. Possible volunteers for the project were discussed - the Bursar confirmed that students from the School would be available as part of their community project and it was also suggested that Drake contact the Bonfire Committee. Jenny Martin suggested that it might be possible to borrow tools from H.C.C. and would look into this possibility. She would also pass on contact names to Drake.

Jenny Martin proposed that the project work on Steep Common go ahead and that the Parish Council should fund the audit and up-front costs, this was seconded by Richard Coles and unanimously agreed.

It was reported that the New Year's Day Walk was a success with both young and old taking part. However, not many had returned to the Village Hall for lunch and large amounts of food and drink had been wasted – sadly, it is thought that the lunch will not take place next year.

The Volunteer Day in the Hangers had attracted a small number of very dedicated volunteers and the area is now much improved.

Footpaths Jenny Martin is continuing to look at options for improving access to the footpath behind Hayes Cottages. The land owner is not keen to install a kissing gate unless the footpath can be fenced at the edge of the field – however, this will involve substantial costs. It was suggested that perhaps R.O.W. would make up the ground at the stile to make it easier to negotiate – Jenny Martin to follow up.

Roads and Traffic Many problems were hi-lighted following the extreme weather conditions – puddles have frozen, expanding tarmac and causing it to break up. Councillors were reminded of the Pothole Reporting Service and urged to use this resource.

Problems with drains are also a concern –especially Mill Lane, outside Steeples, where the level of the drain is higher than the road, and Ridge Common Lane, outside Aldersnapp Farm where the drain needs to be cleared.

It was also reported that the old sign post at the junction of Ashford Lane and Bushy Hill has been broken off – the Clerk to follow up.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial – Following the resignation of the new cleaner (before she had even started) the second interviewee has been taken on - it is hoped that this time it will work out well. A new cooker and fridge have been installed and the sockets behind the cooker blocked off.

It was agreed that the Clerk should order a security box with a combination lock up to 9 figures to keep the Village Hall key in, so that the Hall is not left unlocked between bookings.

It was noted that permission has been granted for the proposed extension to the Village Hall. It was agreed that a meeting of Trustees be held following the short planning meeting on 7th February to discuss the way forward. The Clerk reported that the Big Lottery has turned down the initial application for a grant.

The War Memorial is flooded again – it was suggested that a trench needs to be dug from the back through to Church Road. The Chairman said she would follow this up.

I.T. – New .gov e-mail accounts have been set up for Nick and the Clerk and the rest will follow shortly.

11/11 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Fran declared an interest in application no. 21318/001 as she is a neighbour.

SDNP/21318/001	Two Storey Extension to Rear following demolition of single storey extension	35 Church Road, Steep, GU32 2DN	No objection with comment
SDNP/53059	New pitched roof to side/rear with velux window to east and new fenestration to ground floor rear	The Lodge, Stonerwood Park, Ridge Common Lane GU32 1AH	No objection
SDNP/21242/026	Single storey extension to office/workshop	Brickyards Industrial Estate, Rockpits Lane, Steep Marsh GU32 2BN	Objection – site visit recommended

11/12 FINANCE

- Payments to the following were agreed: J. Hollington (salary and expenses), Jacobs & Hunt (land survey - to be claimed back from Steep Relief in Need Charity), Elm Workspace (filing cabinet for old planning applications), and Aon Insurance (projector and screen).

Steep Parish Council – Minutes of Meeting – 10.1.11

- The letter from Petersfield CAB was discussed and a donation of £300 agreed.

11/13 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Items discussed included the Rural Affordable Housing Impact Assessment (also available on-line at www.easthants.gov.uk) and details of The British Legion Great Poppy Party Weekend (the Clerk to pass this information to Steep School).

11/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 7th February at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.