

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 6th June in the Meeting Room at Haste Ltd. in Steep Marsh at 7.00 p.m.

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

In Attendance: Julian Christie and Tony Terzza – Haste Ltd
Vaughan Clarke – County Councillor
Jenny Hollington - Clerk

There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

Minute	Item	Action
16/67	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Peter Thackrey and District Councillor, Nick Drew	
16/68	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday, 24 th May were approved and signed	
16/69	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda. None declared.	
16/70	<u>AN INTRODUCTION TO HASTE LTD.</u> The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Julian Christie for allowing the Parish Council to use Haste’s meeting room for the Steep Marsh Meeting. Tony Terzza, Development Manager for the firm, was introduced and gave a brief background about the business which started initially with Julian Christie’s father, Iain, repairing faulty appliances at the family home in Buriton. He explained that Haste had quickly become a thriving appliance repair company and, in 1996, it was noticed that one street was producing a lot of work. Investigation showed a voltage incident had occurred and resulted in many damaged appliances – Haste seized this opportunity to respond, suggesting that instead of customers finding their own repairers and making a claim, Haste would handle the damage. This was a great success and as a result Haste has become a very successful support services company. Now Haste have two additional units in Scotland and Leicester as well as in Steep Marsh, and mobile and welfare support units for emergencies. Although 95% of their work is with the large utility companies (e.g. SSE), they do still continue to do private work as well as working closely with loss adjustors, saving insurance companies thousands of pounds in false claims!	
16/71	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – Ashford Lane – A member of the public reported a near miss when turning right out of Ashford Lane onto Stoner Hill. Luckily on this occasion no-one was hurt, but it was felt that sight lines must be improved to prevent an accident occurring. It was queried whether a mirror could be installed on the opposite side of the road to improve visibility. Speed of on-coming vehicles is also an issue and it was suggested that speed restriction signage should be positioned further back from the Ashford Lane turning. It was agreed that the Parish Council would liaise with Hampshire Highways with regard to the above points.	LS

Out of hours working at Brickyards Industrial Estate – A member of the public complained about noise out of hours at the Brickyards Industrial Estate. Mr. Neal, the owner, explained that it is only trading business that's not allowed out of hours - the site is allowed to operate for maintenance and cleaning. The Chairman requested that Mr. Neal remind his tenants of the working hours and ask them to be sensitive to the local community, which he agreed to do.

Condition of passing places in Steep Marsh – It was pointed out that passing places in the narrow Marsh lanes remain in a terrible condition despite requests for improvements over many years. Until the laybys are properly engineered and improved this will be a continuing problem. The Chairman acknowledged this issue and confirmed that the Parish Council would continue to chase Hampshire Highways - however, money is an issue and currently HCC have no budget for the work.

LS

16/72 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – The County Councillor's Report for June is attached to these minutes.

Broadband – Cllr. Clarke confirmed that for communities such as Steep where only some parts of the parish are able to connect to Superfast Broadband, a meeting can be arranged between BT, Glen Peacey from HCC and representatives of the Parish Council to discuss further coverage. It was agreed that Cllr. Fairley should make contact and arrange a meeting.

GF

Changes affecting Petersfield Tip – Cllr. Clarke said that the value of scrap has dropped dramatically and Petersfield Tip is not economically viable. HCC are currently consulting on the issues and considering options to save money. The problem with the Petersfield site is that it is too small and consequently has to be closed each time the skips are emptied.

16/73 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT - Cllr. Drew was unable to be present, but had sent a short report which was read to the meeting. Attention was drawn to grants available for community groups and rural businesses.

16/74 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY AND AGM – There were no matters arising from these meetings.

16/75 SHEET LEVEL CROSSING - The Chairman confirmed that Network Rail will not be pursuing proposals for the closure of the Sheet Level Crossing, following the results of the Sheet Parish Council Referendum, comments from Steep Parish Council and discussions with SDNPA. The half barrier gates will instead be replaced with full curtain gates in due course. This will mean slightly longer waiting times, but at least the road will remain open.

16/76 THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME - The Chairman confirmed that Nick Rook-Blackstone has taken on the role of the Lengthsman and will soon be out and about in the parish carrying out road and footpath related maintenance. Steep P.C. is acting as the lead parish for the cluster which includes Sheet, Stroud, Froxfield, Langrish and Buriton.

It was queried whether footpath 501 in Steep Marsh could be cleared as it is currently very overgrown and impassable in places – it was agreed to add this to the list of work to be prioritised.

JM

16/77 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

Potholes in Steep Marsh – These are to be filled within the next few weeks

Laybys – Cllr. Spurdle hopes to have a response from Andrew Wood at HCC with regard to the condition of the passing places in time for the July P.C. Meeting.

LS

Flooding at Elmwood Corner – The Parish Council has led to believe that drainage work will be carried out in June.

Village Gates – Parishioners reported that cars continue to come down Rockpits Lane at speed and the village gates there are not having any impact. It was agreed that Cllr. Spurdle will discuss the possibility of a rumble strip to improve this situation, with HCC representatives. The gates on the Farnham Road as you approach from Sheet are situated on a wide stretch of road but inform drivers that it is single lane and to use the non-existent passing places. It was requested that consideration be given to moving the gates closer to the single track lane in the Marsh and to provide adequate passing places which are fit for purpose – Cllr. Spurdle will raise these points with HCC.

LS

16/78 FOOTPATHS

A working party consisting of Cllrs. Martin, MacDonald and Cruttenden will meet within the next 2-weeks to discuss and prioritise the next phase of footpath improvements within the parish.

Chair/
JM/PC

HCC volunteers have repaired the steps on the Shoulder of Mutton over the Bank Holiday weekend - these are now much improved and a thank you letter will be sent on behalf of the P.C.

Clerk

Cllr. Martin will continue to chase Elliott Rowe to arrange to meet to discuss problems on footpath 22a and 24 through Taylor’s Copse.

JM

Missing signage was reported on the Shipwright’s Way – walkers are missing the path to Kettlebrook Cottages and getting lost. The P.C. will follow this up with HCC.

Clerk

The HCC Hangers Walk for parish representatives will take place at 7.00 p.m. on 15th June (meet at Ashford Farm).

All

16/79 STEEP COMMON

Community Event – The Chairman encouraged everyone to attend the event on Steep Common on Saturday, 11th June from 2.00 p.m. to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday.

All

Annual Play Inspection – An inspection of the play equipment has been carried out and the report received. It was agreed that Councillors with responsibility for the Common should meet to discuss the recommendations contained in the report and bring proposals to the next meeting.

Chair/
LS/TC

“No Parking” Signage for Gates – this has now been received and will be installed within the next couple of days.

SB

16/80 FINANCE

(a) Annual Return 2015-16 – Section 2 –The figures for the financial year 15-16 had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and were approved, subject to any comments by the Auditor.

(b) The draft Grant Award Policy and application form circulated prior to the meeting were approved.

(c) The following cheques were approved for June payment:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100080	£54.60	N.W. Adams	Annual Play Inspection
100081	£71.00	Mythic Beasts	Domain renewal

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100082	£60.00	Jonathan Street	Website management
100083	£180.00	HALC	HR Consultancy Fee
Total :	£365.60		

- 16/81 DEVOLUTION – The Chairman explained the current position with regard to devolution. He said that he hoped the situation would become clearer following a meeting organised by the East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils at which the C.E.O. of Hampshire County Council will discuss the issue in more detail. The Chairman urged Parish Councillors to attend the meeting which will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th June at Liss Village Hall. All
- 16/82 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, 4th July at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.