

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 3rd October 2016 at Steep Village Hall

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

In Attendance: John Payne, Police Community Support Officer
Jenny Hollington - Clerk

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

Minute	Item	Action
16/114	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Fairley and Cook	
16/115	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 12 th September were approved and signed.	
16/116	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING</u> – The Chairman confirmed that since the last meeting he has responded to the HCC consultation on devolution and also written to the Head Teacher and children at Steep School thanking them for their comments on local services. The deadline for a response to the TAG Farnborough Airport proposals has now been extended to the beginning of November and consequently he has been held back the P.C. response, in case there is any further information to come.	Chair
16/117	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda. None declared.	
16/118	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none">Members of the Parish Council were thanked for their hard work in support of the local community.	
16/119	<u>POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT</u> – John Payne, Police Community Support Officer, for Steep was welcomed to the meeting.	

PCSO John Payne explained his role within the Neighbourhood Policing Team working out of Longmoor – John’s particular remit covers Liss, Froxfield, Privett and Steep and residents with any concerns can contact him via e-mail on john.payne@hampshire.pnn.police. His role is to be out and about, talking to members of the public, finding out what is going on in each area, liaising with schools and parish councils, etc. He also works with vulnerable members of society and will signpost victims of crime to appropriate organisations for help.

Residents are encouraged to sign up to www.hampshirealert.co.uk - a community messaging scheme, which notifies users of current issues in the neighbourhood.

Specific issues to the parish were discussed – fly-tipping, burglaries and vandalism – John confirmed that all incidents should be reported to him (as well as via 101) so that he can keep track of recurring problems and any emerging patterns.

John confirmed that he would be happy to attend the next Annual Parish Assembly to meet and talk further to members of the public about his role. If required, the possibility of holding a “surgery” could also be considered.

16/120 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr. Hurst is continuing to look into the status of this initiative and will report back at the November meeting NH

16/121 CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR STEEP – EHDC have confirmed that a bye-election is not required and that the Parish Council can co-opt someone to the role. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the vacancy is advertised via the noticeboards and website, with a view to co-option at the next Parish Council Meeting on 7th November. Clerk

16/122 FINANCE

(a) **Bank reconciliation** – the bank statement for September was circulated, approved and signed. The cash book balance stands at £14,450.64 at 10th September (note – this amount includes £5,200 for the Lengthsman Scheme).

(b) **To approve cheques** – October payments were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100096	£150.00	Parkwood Arts Ltd	Fingerpost - Common
100097	£1056.00	Chris Budd	Footpath 36
100098	£1884.00	Chris Budd	Footpath 13
100099	£200.00	Stephen Lamont	Noticeboard maintenance
100100	£75.60	Petersfield Town Council	Dog Bin emptying - Common
Total :	£3365.60		

16/123 NOTICEBOARDS – Maintenance work to the noticeboards in Ridge Common Lane and Church Road has been carried out in preparation for the winter weather. It was agreed that annual maintenance of all parish noticeboards should be reconsidered in March 2017 so that the boards are kept in good condition.

It was noted that the Map Board at the top of Mill Lane is starting to look very tired and agreed that this should be an agenda item for November. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to liaise with HCC regarding reprinting the artwork. Clerk

16/124 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME – The Chairman and Cllr. Martin met to discuss the Autumn work schedule for the Lengthsman and their proposals had been circulated. The following jobs were agreed:

- Signage – ensure all signs are clearly visible
- Install footpath signage at Steep Common
- Footpath 13 – clearance at the entrance to Hayes Cottages from Stoner Hill and the top section of footpath where it joins Island Farm.

The Chairman reminded Councillors to be vigilant around the parish and note any highway and footpath related issues to ensure best use of the Lengthsman’s time. Cllrs

16/125 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL – A proposal for re-planting and tidying the War Memorial and corner of Mill Lane was discussed – however more detail with regard to costings is required before a

decision can be made. In addition, the Clerk was asked to obtain comparison quotes and look into availability of grant funding towards the project.

Clerk

16/126 ROADS AND TRAFFIC – In addition to current on-going issues, the following items were noted:

- Potholes in Rockpits Lane and Island Farm Lane – Cllrs. Hurst and Spurdle will report these via the HCC website. NH/LS
- Resurfacing of Lythe Lane – Cllr. Spurdle will follow this up with Connor Morris LS
- Blocked culvert in Ashford Lane – no-one appears willing to take responsibility for the culvert which is potentially partially blocked and unable to cope with water levels during heavy rain. Cllr. Spurdle was asked to check whether this issue has already been raised with HCC by Cllr. Cook. LS

16/127 FOOTPATHS – Cllr. Martin reported on the following:

- Footpath 22a (Taylors Copse) – A second quote for resurfacing the path, in the sum of £2460.00, has been received. It was agreed to proceed with this quote as it is substantially cheaper than the first. The Clerk was asked to complete the application forms for SGS funding and District Councillor funding towards the project.
- Permissive Path on Steep Common – Signage is ready and will be installed by the Lengthsman shortly.

16/128 STEEP COMMON –

Annual Inspection - Work to address the minor issues raised in the annual inspection report is on-going. Arrangements have been made to cut back the hedges at the entrance. Cllrs. Cook and Bridger will install the extra railing under the gate.

TC
SB

Annual Bonfire and Firework Event – It was agreed that the annual bonfire and firework event on Saturday, 5th November should go ahead at Steep Common as per previous years. The Clerk was asked to ensure that a risk assessment has been carried out and to notify the insurance company.

Clerk

16/129 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE – In the absence of Cllr. Fairley this item was deferred until the November meeting.

16/130 CORRESPONDENCE –

EHDC Parish Charter – The Chairman explained that the Charter had been long in the making but sets out how EHDC will work with Parish and Town Councils. The following points were noted:

- 2(e) Community Forums – Steep Parish Council doesn't appear to have been notified of these meetings recently. The Clerk was asked to check the status of the meetings.
- 2(k) Link to Parish Newsletter – the Clerk was asked to ensure that once this was up and running the appropriate link to the Steep and Stroud Newsletter is forwarded to EHDC.
- 5(g) Planning Comments – It was agreed that stronger wording would be more appropriate – e.g. "...will give especial weight to local community views, as expressed in Parish/ Town Councils' comments, particularly where backed up by adopted policy within a Parish /Neighbourhood Plan."

Clerk

Precept Consultation – An e-mail from Steven Lugg, Executive Director at HALC, highlighting the consultation and urging Parish Councils to respond was discussed. Currently local authorities require referendum consent from the local electorate if a proposed council

tax increase exceeds 2% and it is suggested that this principle should be extended to Parish Councils. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should meet to agree a response to the consultation, setting out Steep Parish Council's concerns with regard to the proposal.

Chair
PC
Clerk

16/131 MEETINGS ATTENDED –

EHAP&TC – The Chairman reported that Cllr. Ferris Cowper, Leader of EHDC, had given an up-date on EHDC's preferred option of a Combined Authority. Bob Coleman had presented the Parish Charter (as above).

Budgeting and Finance Training – The Clerk had attended this training session which she felt had been interesting and informative.

16/132 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS –

- SDNPA Workshop – 14th November at the Festival Hall in Petersfield. Places have been booked for Cllrs. Cruttenden, Fairley and MacDonald (as Chair of EHAP&TC)
- Ashford Hangers Meeting – 5th October, Queen Elizabeth Park – Cllrs. Martin and Bridger will attend

16/133 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will take place on Monday, 7th November at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.