

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 2nd December 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Kate Ashfield Terry Cook
Peter Cruttenden Chris Laycock Jeff Graham
Nick Hurst Jenny Martin

In Attendance: Russell Oppenheimer, County Councillor
Nick Drew, District Councillor
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 4 members of the public present.

Minute	Item	Action
19/179	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Cllr. Simon Bridger	
19/180	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 th November 2019 were approved and signed.	
19/181	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare an interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
19/182	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – Comments from the public all related to the land in Church Road and the Community Up-date Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A resident said that she did not feel that the stated aims and objectives of the Community Up-date Meeting had been met - the Chairman’s presentation had taken up much of the time, only selected questions had been answered, and there had been no opportunity to explore community ideas.• A Church Road resident thanked the P.C. for giving their time at the Community Up-date Meeting but noted that only 1 member of the Parish Council lives in Church Road and will be impacted by development.• A resident noted that Parish Councillors are elected to represent residents and queried who would be representing the people who have concerns about development?	
	The Chairman confirmed that he would address these points under the appropriate agenda item (19/183).	
19/183	<u>FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY UP-DATE MEETING</u> – Cllr. Ashfield gave a quick summary of feedback received at the meeting. Of approximately 80 people present at the meeting, 34 feedback forms were collected: Question 1 - Did you find the meeting informative? 6 people answered 5 – Somewhat, 12 people answered 10 – Yes. The remainder were somewhere in between 5-10 Question 2 - Was the communication of information clear and easy to understand? 4 people answered 5 – Somewhat, 14 people answered 10 – Yes. The remainder were somewhere in between 5-10	

Question 3 - Do you feel informed about the next steps and how to find further information on the Church Road proposals? 3 people answered 1 – No, 6 people answered 5 – Somewhat, 9 people answered 10 – Yes. The remainder were somewhere in between 1-10.

The most common comments concerned a requirement for more time to ask questions, have their concerns heard, plus a need for more consultation.

In response to the public comment, the Chairman explained that he put together the presentation and it had contained a lot of information - the Community Up-date Meeting had provided the first opportunity to put this across and the presentation had taken longer than anticipated. He agreed that a second meeting would be beneficial and would provide an opportunity to address further questions and allow people to have their voices heard.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a further Community Up-date meeting would be held on Tuesday, 21st January at 7.30 p.m. in Steep Village Hall. The Community-Up-date sub-committee will meet to discuss the format of the meeting in detail and will also ensure it is well advertised ahead of the meeting, bearing in mind there is no January Newsletter.

19/184 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - Cllr. Oppenheimer said that he has spoken to Pete Durnell, HCC Ranger, about a possible solution for the leak at Lutcombe Pond using puddled clay. However, Pete has pointed out that HCC are only able to use approved contractors and would therefore be unable to consider this in more detail. Cllr. Oppenheimer queried whether Steep P.C. would be prepared to run the project themselves and suggested that a meeting should be arranged in the New Year between interested parties to see if there is a way forward.

Cllr. Oppenheimer also spoke briefly about:

- The new Strategy for Local Flood and Water Management which is subject to an 8-week consultation commencing in January 2020
- The BorrowBox app which offers library members a catalogue of e-audiobooks and e-books for free.
- A new Health and Wellbeing Officer has been appointed to develop a strategy which harnesses the health benefits of getting out and about in the National Park.

Cllr. Oppenheimer's report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Parish Council website.

19/185 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –

- **Community Up-date Meeting** - Cllr. Drew said that several residents have approached him about their concerns for the land at Church Road and thanked the Parish Council for organising the Community Up-date Meeting to start the process of engaging with residents. One concern that has been raised is that in future consideration should be given to having an independent Chair – Cllr. Drew stressed that this is not something he could get involved with as it is not an EHDC matter.
- **Horse Riding Incident** – Following the accident discussed at the last meeting, Nick has sent through information from the British Horse Society that can be used in educating motorists about driving safely around horses.
- **Fly Tipping** – East Hampshire have recently been successful in prosecuting the owner of a horse livery yard after investigating a fly-tip at Whitehill Cemetery. Nick urged residents to continue reporting any incidents of fly-tipping.
- **Increase in Air Traffic** – Nick has made representation to SDNPA on behalf of a neighbouring parish with reference to the recent increase in air traffic following a change

of flight path at Gatwick – he anticipates this will get even worse when changes at Farnborough are initiated.

19/186 FINANCE

- (a) November Bank Reconciliation – The bank reconciliation was approved and signed. The current account balance as at 10.11.19 is £18,336. The deposit account balance is £14,363 as at 30.9.19.
- (b) Budget 20-21 – An initial budget assessment for 20-21 was circulated and summarised by Cllr. Cruttenden. In reviewing the current financial year, it was noted that a small surplus of approximately £2,000 is anticipated at year end 19-20. However, the budgeted figure for Phase 2 Roads and Traffic project has not been used and the project is now anticipated to fall into 20-21. The budget figures were discussed, and it was agreed that a further £1000 should be included for repairs to Lutcombe Pond as this is a much-loved community asset. The budget for Phase 2 Roads and Traffic works should be increased to £6000 as there had been strong support from all in attendance at the Roads and Traffic Meeting in July. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Cruttenden would revise and re-circulate the budget proposal for final approval at the January meeting. Clerk
PC
- (c) Precept 20-21 - The proposed increases to the budget 20-21 discussed above, will have a knock-on effect on the precept request unless the Parish Council is prepared to eat into reserves. Some members of the parish council were uneasy with the idea of a large increase in precept and said they would prefer to seek grants and fundraise than to raise the precept. However, it was pointed out that the current Steep Precept is very low when compared to neighbouring parishes and that when worked out across the parish, the increase per household would be minimal. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Cruttenden would assess the level of increase per household if the total increase in budget is covered by precept and circulate details for final approval of the Precept 20-21 at the January meeting. Clerk
PC
- (d) December cheque payments were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100287	£180.00	Sawscapes Play Ltd	Repair - play equipment
100288	£31.92	Mr. & Mrs. T. Knights	Refund - plants - War Memorial
100289	£16.80	Petersfield Town Council	Dog Bin
100290	£1,173.60	Earth Anchors	Steep Marsh Noticeboard
100291	£575.00	Frank & Bill	Lengthsmen
100292	£756.91	J. Hollington	Clerk + expenses
100293	£76.97	M.Robinson	Refund - new tablet (speedwatch)
Total :	£2,811.20		

19/187 STEEP COMMON –

- (a) Report from SDNPA Woodland Officer – Bob Epsom met with Cllrs. Graham and Cook at the Common and produced a very constructive report. He intends re-visiting the Common at the end of December and his recommendations will be discussed in greater detail at the January Parish Council Meeting
- (b) Ash Die-Back – Unfortunately Alex Stickley doesn't hold appropriate insurance to fell the Ash Trees on the Common. Cllr. Cook will now seek quotes from other contractors. Cllrs. Cook and Graham will agree a plan of action for tree work for the January meeting. TC
JG
- (c) Hawthorn Whips – The purchase of 50 Hawthorn whips to help delineate the Parish

- Council boundary on the Common (approximately £60) was approved. JG
- (d) Fence Repair – A quote received for either a repair to the rotting fence at the entrance to the Common, or to install new, was discussed. It was agreed that the fence should be repaired at a cost of £330.00 JG

19/188 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Hedges – Cllr. Laycock met with residents living on Stoner Hill to discuss hedge cutting and whether a pedestrian pathway to the kissing gate at the bottom of Footpath 12 would increase pedestrian safety. However, it was felt that speed and volume of traffic at this narrow part of Stoner Hill is a very real concern and provision of a pathway may make pedestrian safety worse. It was agreed to wait until Phase 2 Traffic plans are received before taking this any further. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to report overgrown hedges via HCC. Clerk
- (b) Ridge Common Lane – Nothing further has been heard from HCC about the part of the lane which is subsiding. However, the verges further down the lane are now becoming badly damaged as a result of the large camper van which has been parked in the lane. The Chairman undertook to speak to the resident concerned. Chair
- (c) EHDC SLR – EHDC have installed a temporary SLR at the entrance to the Village on the C18 just on the bridge over the A3 (facing traffic coming from Petersfield) – results are not yet known. The Clerk was asked to chase feedback. Clerk
- (d) Speedwatch Signage – Cllr. Graham had provided details and a quote for 10 speedwatch signs, approved by the Police, intended to raise the profile of speedwatch within the village. Councillors felt that 10 signs within the countryside may be too much and it was agreed to get a revised quote for 2 signs initially (in black and yellow). JG
- (e) Speedwatch Equipment – The quote for a new tablet and screen protector to replace the damaged one, in the sum of £60 +VAT was approved. In addition, a few more Hi Viz jackets are also required to be big enough to fit over winter clothing – this was also approved. JG

- 19/189 LUTCOMBE POND – As discussed under the County Councillor’s report, a meeting will be arranged between interested parties, to see whether the repair project could be progressed by Steep Parish Council, rather than HCC. Clerk

19/190 FOOTPATHS

HCC Cutting List – It was agreed that the same footpaths should be put forward for priority cutting in 2020 including Paths 505, 13, 22a and 1. If 5-paths are permitted, 501 should also be included. Clerk

Footpath 20 – It was agreed to liaise with the Hampshire Monday Group about resurfacing this part of the Hangers Way, in case this would be more cost effective than applying for an SGS Grant. Clerk

- 19/191 LENGTHSMAN FUNDING – It was noted that Steep Parish Council have used up their £1000 grant for the current financial year. The Lengthsmen will now focus on parishes that have money to be used up.

- 19/192 TREE WARDEN – An expression of interest has been received and it was agreed that Cllrs. Graham/Cook and MacDonald will meet with the applicant at Steep Common to discuss the role in greater detail. JG/TC
Chair

19/193 STEEP MARSH ON-GOING ITEMS

- (a) **Steep Marsh Noticeboard** – SDNPA have indicated that they would be happy to fund the board via S.106 monies if it can be positioned away from the bend and towards The

Brickyards Industrial Estate. The Clerk will liaise with the resident who has offered to have the noticeboard on the verge outside her home about positioning and progress the S.106 application if appropriate. Clerk

(b) **LittlefreeLibrary** – The proposal from a Steep Marsh resident to refurbish and up-grade the old noticeboard for use as a “LittlefreeLibrary” was approved, once the new noticeboard is in position. Clerk

(c) **Bench** – It appears that the bench on the green outside the bungalow was donated in memory of Sir Alec Guinness – a quote for refurbishment will be sought. Clerk

19/194 COMMUNITY EVENTS

(a) **2019 Bonfire & Firework Event** – The event had been extremely well attended but because of numbers and weather conditions, the ground has been badly damaged – ground conditions will be discussed further at the January P.C. meeting. The bonfire & firework committee are yet to meet for their wash-up meeting - more information will be available in January.

(b) **Remembrance Day Service** – The service at the War Memorial was very well attended with over 30 residents coming along to pay their respects. The Parish Council’s thanks were expressed to all concerned and especially Tony and Suzanne Knights for their care of the planting area, which looked beautiful for the occasion. Residents were able to enjoy coffee and cake at the Village Hall afterwards.

(c) **Volunteer Morning – Ashford Hangers** – Again, this was a well-attended and successful event. The Parish Council’s thanks were expressed to all those who gave up their Sunday morning to help.

(d) **Steep Film Club** – Following the “cry for help” from the Film Club, several volunteers and new Trustee/Committee Members have come forward to take the Club forward. The Parish Council were pleased to note that there had been 68 people in attendance at the first film showing which is very positive.

19/195 MEETINGS ATTENDED

- **HALC AGM** – The Chairman had attended in his role as Chair of EHAP&TC – he gave a brief overview of the meeting which had included several interesting presentations – copies of these will be made available via e-mail. He felt the presentation from Hound Parish Council about the use of I.T. and their website in keeping costs down was particularly relevant to Steep P.C. in considering a website up-grade in 2020.

- **EHAP&TC** – The new Head of Legal Services had been present to up-date Parish and Town Councils on new advice from Central Government in respect of the Code of Conduct. EHDC will be revising their Code of Conduct and will circulate a draft early in the New Year. Councils who adopted the EHDC Code of Conduct may wish to consider adopting the new draft.

19/196 CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail correspondence concerning the horse-riding accident (as discussed under Cllr. Drew’s report) and the information he has sent through was noted.

19/197 PRESS OFFICER UP-DATE – Cllr. Ashfield agreed to prepare a short report for the next edition of the newsletter covering the items discussed during the meeting.

19/198 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be on Monday, 13th January (to allow for Christmas/ New Year break) - Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS
2 DECEMBER 2019**

1. Consultation on Local Flood and Water Management Strategy

A new Strategy for Local Flood and Water Management was approved by the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and the Environment at his Decision Day on 12 November 2019. The Strategy will now be subject to an 8-week consultation which will commence in January 2020.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), Hampshire County Council became the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Hampshire. In accordance with the legislation, all LLFAs across the country are required to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The new strategy includes a “Catchment Approach” and sets out tangible actions which identify what the County Council, working with its partners, will do to improve flood and water management across Hampshire. The strategy seeks to further improve existing working relationships with partner organisations such as the Environment Agency, water companies, Catchment Partnerships and local authorities at all levels of government including Parish Councils.

Parish Councils may wish to consider whether they would like to respond to the consultation. The Strategy is available to read on the Internet at this link:

<http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s40463/Appendix%201.pdf>

2. Hampshire Libraries sees success with digital app BorrowBox

The number of young people and adults using the range of digital resources at Hampshire Library Service has quadrupled in the last year.

The BorrowBox app offers library members aged 16 and over a catalogue of e-audiobooks and e-books for free. Raising awareness of this app amongst the community may help more residents to access the free services. All you need to do is download the BorrowBox App from the App Store (Apple or Google Play) and then log in with your library membership credentials.

If you are not currently a library member, do not worry. You can join Hampshire Libraries online by visiting this link and clicking on “Join online now”

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/jointhelibrary>

Over the last twelve months, the App has seen a rise from 4,668 registered users in November 2018 to 22,912 in November 2019. It would be great to quadruple it again over the next year!

3. The Natural Health Service: National Parks

The South Downs National Park has appointed a new Health & Wellbeing Officer, Kate Drake, to develop a strategy which harnesses the health benefits of getting out and about in the National Park.

On the back of mounting medical evidence of the strong link between getting active in green open spaces and wellness, the National Park is devising new strategies that encourage people to make the most of this tranquil oasis for its wider health benefits.

Although still in its early development stages, this is likely to include “social prescribing” – where health professionals will be able to refer patients to benefit from activities in the National Park delivered by the National Park Authority and its partners.

You can read an interview with Kate at this link:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-parks-natural-health-service-meet-woman-looking-develop-mental-health-benefits-south-downs/>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers