

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan
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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13th May 2004,
at Steep Village Hall

Present: Richard Coles (in the chair) Terry Cook Charles Gibson
Peter Cruttenden Sue Onslow Sheila Fairley
Caro Robinson

John West (County Councillor)

Tony Struthers (Co-ordinator of Steep Traffic Management Group)

Julie Ryan (HCC Social Services) and Julie Eden (Huntleigh Healthcare)
(Millennium Homes Project)

There were 0 members of the public.

04/29 APOLOGIES

Jennifer Gray and Bridget MacMillan sent their apologies.

04/30 MILLENIUM HOMES PROJECT

Julie Ryan and Julie Eden gave a presentation for “Tele Care” They informed the meeting that Hampshire County Council was the first in the country to pilot this scheme to give support for the elderly to remain in their own homes as long as possible. They are to carry out two pilot studies (Basingstoke and Steep) They told the meeting that four people had been identified in Steep and the pilot would begin in June. They were also installing electronic systems to minimize risk. They responded to a series of questions posed by the Parish Councillors. It was suggested that the Parish Council could help with a volunteer network to help support and the council would be informed about this later. Steep Parish Council welcomed the project and looked forward to regular reports and updates.

04/31 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sue Onslow proposed that Richard should be elected as Chairman of Steep Parish Council and Caro Robinson seconded the proposal. Councillors were unanimous in supporting the proposal and Richard was duly elected Chairman of Steep Parish Council.

Responsibilities

It was decided that responsibilities would be shared out as follows:

Allotments - Richard

Common – Terry and Charles

Footpaths – Sue and Sheila

Roads - Caro

The Hangers - Terry

Steep Village Memorial Club –Richard and Caro

Housing Needs development – Peter to be contact point.

Planning – All members, as required

04/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded. Terry Cook declared a personal interest in item 10, as it is his property.

04/33 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting dated Monday 1st March 2004 and Tuesday 4th May 2004 were agreed as an accurate record

04/34 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

There were no matters arising from the annual parish meeting.

04/35 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

04/36 REPORT OF STEEP TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Traffic Management: Tony Struthers reported that following a meeting with Graham Clifford from HCC a plan had been produced to show possible traffic signs and markings. Tony showed the meeting this plan. He said that Graham Clifford had indicated this was the first step and that HCC was prepared to look at further possible solutions identified in the original traffic management plan. He asked the councillors how they would like to proceed. Peter suggested that a small group of councillors meet with the aim of producing a public exhibition to display and inform the parish of likely developments rather than road signs appearing without any prior warning. This was agreed by the council and a meeting with Graham Clifford would be arranged at Tony's house.

Steep Primary School: Tony informed the meeting that the school travel plan had been submitted to HCC by Gwil Williams and although no response had been received it was understood that it would be considered in the light of wider traffic issues.

Bedales: Peter pointed to the last meeting and reiterated his disappointment with the travel plan produced by Bedales. He reported that the considered view had been passed to Mark Taylor. He said that he hoped to extract something positive and to move forward. He read a statement from Bedales confirming their withdrawal of the master plan and a verbal statement of intent regarding the traffic concerns of the village. It was agreed that this should go on to the website and in the parish newsletter.

Richard thanked Tony and Peter for their reports.

04/37 REPORT FROM TERRY COOK REGARDING THE ASHFORD HANGERS

Terry reported on the meeting that took place on 20th April with the Committee. He said that the following points had been raised:

- In relation to the scrub. This was to be dealt with in a 4 year cycle so that it didn't get too big. The way the Shoulder of Mutton looked was praised.
- Jack's Meadow – Terry raised concerns over the size of the scrub on the east side. David had agreed to look at this.
- Spray results on juniper were positive. Terry admitted that the committee had been divided on the use of sprays.
- Map of the Hangers has been produced.
- Tree Management of Lutcombe Pond and problem with clematis was to be looked at. Stream under the road at Ashford Manor: still pressure for action for sump to prevent silt.
- Praise for the vehicle path (Butterfly Walk)
- Guided walk on Winchester Hill at 7pm on 22/06/04 with English Nature to discuss its management.

04/38 PLAY EQUIPMENT SITE

Charles presented two projects of play schemes. He described the grant situation as follows:

EHDC ceiling: £2000

Hampshire Playing Fields Association: £1000 maximum grant

Millennium Commission: £5000 maximum grant

Steep Village School Parents Association have been requested to delay fundraising due to new hall scheme.

The Councillors debated the possibility of siting the new play equipment on the new village green. It was agreed that this would mean at least a 2 year deferral. Caro stressed that the present offer was a very competitive price with a significant discount. Charles suggested that the council proceed with the grant applications. Sue and Caro agreed. **Charles** to do this.

Richard suggested that an expert was consulted re; clearing the common further. **Terry** to contact Stephen D'Este Hoare in the landscape department of EHDC.

04/39 PLANNING APPLICATION FOR OAKHURST FARM

Terry Cook took no part in this item due to his declared interest. The application was displayed and discussed. The Councillors agreed unanimously that there should be no objection to this application

04/40 FINANCE

Web Site Expenses

Peter reported that as previously recorded, the parish council is very grateful for the work that Phil Morris is doing to develop and promote the village web site (www.SteepVillage.com), As a result of Phil's efforts, there is an increasing level of use of, and interest in, the site.

When the site was established nearly three years ago, it was estimated that total out-of-pocket costs would amount to around £100 per year. However, the further development of the site now exceeds the available space on our host. **Peter therefore asked for Councillors' agreement to buy additional space.** The additional space will be sufficient to cater for any foreseeable future expansion.

The total costs, including the expanded space, will average £138 per year. The council agreed unanimously.

Steep Village Hall (*Windows donation of £250 agreed in January.*)

Peter observed that the earlier discussion (concerning a donation by the Parish Council to the Village Hall finances related to the replacement of the windows) took place when there was uncertainty about the costs of all of the options being considered at that time.

Now that the costs were clear and more was known about the overall financial situation of the Village Hall, he said there did not appear to be any justification for a further transfer of funds to the Village Hall accounts. All of the financial benefits forecast to arise from the new windows would accrue to the Hall accounts and there were ample resources available to cover the initial costs. He reported that as far as Councillors were aware, a material surplus would be made from Village Hall operations again in the current year. Charles disagreed on the grounds that it was a requirement of EHDC for its grant that the parish council also contributed. **Bridget** to check that this was a documented requirement. If this were the case Peter would withdraw his objection.

A one-off donation to Petersfield and District Sports Council was approved.

The following cheques were approved at the meeting:

800164	EHDC Election Charges	£41.30	
800165	Peter Cruttenden (web site)	£70.21	
800166	Village Hall Memorial Club (windows) required by EHDC)	£250.00	(Only if
800167	Petersfield and District Sports Council	£50	

04/41 CORRESPONDENCE

Sue informed the meeting that a letter had been received from EHDC with a copy of clarifying notes from ‘The Standards Board for England’ which reminded Councillors that membership of the Freemasons and political party council associations should be declared on the register of interests. **Bridget** to clarify whether this also related to political party membership.

04/42 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 5th July – 7.30pm

Monday 6th September – 7.30pm

Monday 1st November – 7.30pm