

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan
01730 261666

Minutes of the Steep Parish Annual Parish Assembly, held on Wednesday 4th May 2005 at Steep Village Hall

Present: Richard Coles (in the Chair) Terry Cook Peter Cruttenden
Caro Robinson Fran Box Charles Gibson
Maggie Owen

In Attendance: Councillor Ken Graham (Chairman EHDC)
Bridget MacMillan (Clerk)

5 Members of the Public were present

APM05/01 APOLOGIES

John West (County Councillor), Philip Mileham and Sue Onslow sent their apologies Due to technical problems apologies were sent, but not yet received, by Jennifer Gray (District Councillor)

APM05/02 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th May 2004 were agreed as an accurate record.

APM05/03 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Richard Coles reported that this year had been even busier than last, with additional meetings being held to cover issues in greater detail.

He informed the meeting that councillors had been working hard to find an acceptable way forward for the shop and housing scheme and it would remain ongoing until the council felt it had something that would be prepared to work with.

The Steep Community Liaison Group had worked hard with Bedales to resolve the Church Road traffic problems. It appeared to have made progress by he regretted to inform the meeting that Bedales had now submitted plans that did not deal with it. A meeting with the co-chairs of the governors had admitted a problem but no solution was known. Richard thanked the members of the group for their work.

Some progress had been achieved with the Steep Traffic Management Plan and several passing places had been added to Steep Marsh. Other road calming measures are also due to be implemented in this financial year such as coloured markings and additional signage. Richard reported that the footpath

Minutes of Steep Parish Assembly 2005

from Bedales to the primary school was also to go ahead. He thanked Tony Struthers for his work with the Parish Council on traffic issues.

Richard thanked Phil Morris for his work on the village website which was now being well used by the community. He also thanked Bridget and Peter MacMillan for their temporary stand-in roles as web managers while Phil was away.

Richard reported that the precept remained at £7000.00, which is believed to be amongst the lowest for a parish of this size.

He told the meeting that the village hall remained the responsibility of the Parish Councillors. The lettings numbers were very good thanks in part to the work of Rachel Goodchild as bookings secretary. The redecoration programme has begun this year and the main hall, kitchen and disabled entrance were due to be painted in July.

The allotments continued to be used for pony grazing and all three were fully let for the year.

Richard told the meeting that in January Fran Box joined the council and they were pleased to have a Church Road resident on board.

One of the Council's main tasks throughout the year continued to be planning, taking up a lot of time especially when site meetings were needed.

Richard reported that in the past 12 months there had been 49 planning applications, of those the Parish Council objected to 10. Of those 10, 4 were refused and one was given permission. A further 5 are awaiting decision. Steep Parish Council made no objections to the remaining 39 applications, of which 26 have received planning permission, 5 were refused and one was withdrawn. A further 7 were awaiting a decision.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking the District Councillor, Jenny Gray and the County Councillor, John West, for their expertise and support during the year. He wished John success as election candidate for the neighbouring constituency. He thanked all the Parish Councillors for their support throughout his year in office, with special thanks to Peter Cruttenden for his additional work behind the scenes. Finally he thanked the clerk for her hard work particularly this year when so many additional meetings had taken place.

APM05/04 FINANCE REPORT

Bridget MacMillan reported to the meeting the Parish Council.

The figures as at March 31st 2005 were as follows:

Portman Building Society	£7,705.43
Hampshire County Council Investment	£16,102.60
Total cash and Investments	£23,808.03

Donations

Steep Parish Council made the following donations during the past year:

All Saints Churchyard maintenance	£155.00
Steep and Stroud Newsletter	£230.00

Minutes of Steep Parish Assembly 2005

Steep War Memorial Village Club	£250.00
Victim Support	£50.00
Petersfield and district Sports Council	£50.00
Total	£735.00

Receipts

The Parish Council received a precept of £7000.00 for the year 2004/2005

The precept has been set for £7000.00 for the year 2005/2006

The Parish Council had received income from its allotments of £240.00

The interest earned on deposit investments was £667.61

APM05/05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr J K West was unable to attend the meeting but asked that the following statement be read to the meeting "I am sorry not to be present; I have enjoyed representing Petersfield and the nine Parishes surrounding it.

The HCC has just brought in the lowest Council Tax increase for 35 years. I hope that is a good note on which to leave you."

APM05/06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The District Councillor's report was not received in time for the meeting due to a technical fault. Councillors received a copy with the draft minutes.

Councillor Ken Graham thanked the Parish Council for inviting him and brought greetings from the district council. He told the meeting that Jenny Gray was an excellent councillor and John West was very hard working also. He was pleased to hear the parish finances were healthy. Richard thanked him for his attendance.

APM05/07 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public comment.

Richard Coles thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.