

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan
01730 261666

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 6th March 2006 at 7.30pm at Steep Village Hall

Present: Richard Coles (in the chair) Terry Cook Philip Mileham
Peter Cruttenden Fran Box Lyn Peters
Charles Gibson David Llewellyn

In Attendance:
Bridget MacMillan (Clerk)
Jenny Gray (District Councillor)
Michael Cartwright (County Councillor)

There were 8 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

11/06 **APOLOGIES**

Caro Robinson sent her apologies.

12/06 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday 9th January 2006 were agreed as an accurate record.

13/06 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE BY NEW COUNCILLOR**

David Llewellyn was welcomed to the Parish Council. He had received the Code of Conduct and Member Interests forms prior to the meeting. He signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

14/06 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded.

15/06 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Cartwright informed the meeting that Hampshire County Council had agreed a 4.7% increase for band D households. Due to an overspend in adult social services the Hampshire Action Team would not go ahead for the year. He was pleased to inform the meeting that the fire service had agreed an increase of just 2.5 % which was the second lowest in the country.

Jenny Gray informed the meeting that EHDC had agreed a 2.5% Council tax rise. She also told the meeting that the South Downs National Park Scheme would be delayed after a successful appeal to be removed by part of the New Forest.

There was no public comment.

16/06 **REPORT FROM SHOP AND HOUSING PROJECT**

Peter informed the meeting that the Council was waiting for new plans from Petersfield Housing Association following the different proposals discussed in December. He suggested that PHA might have to rethink the project following an

internal meeting to be held this week. David asked for the draft business plan. **Bridget** to action.

17/06 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Common and Hangers:

Terry reported that Paul Thompson has agreed to hold a meeting at QE Park before May, which Michael Cartwright will chair. Hampshire County Council are to assess the levels of toxicity in the sludge at Lutcombe Pond before any dredging was allowed. **Terry** agreed to raise the matter of the leak at the pond at the next meeting.

Terry reported that he had attended the South Downs Forum Committee with Tony Struthers representing the Petersfield Society. They both feel East Hants Character Assessment Forum are not assessing Steep and the Hangers enough and Terry requested that more Councillors attend the meetings to represent the area.

Lyn reported that the sub-committee for the playground equipment had met three playground design representatives and received two quotes. They requested the council agree to a £250 fee for drawings to be made up by Alex Jamieson. She explained that he had produced the equipment at Dunhurst which was very successful. She informed the meeting that the Parish Council would take on all liabilities at the hand over of any work done but that he would use local people and any work would be tailor made and sympathetic to the Common. The Council agreed unanimously to the fee. **Lyn** to draft letter to Mr. Jamieson.

Lyn reported that the playground inspection report had been received which recommended a programme of removal or replacement. After discussion it was agreed to write to the insurance company informing them of the report. **Terry and Richard** to replace the shackle bushes.

Visits had been made to the common by Adele Poulton from EHDC who is reluctant to see the removal of the small oak tree to make space for the new play equipment and Patrick Stephens from the Forestry Commission who believes it to be a self-setter which can be removed. He is also keen to improve the maintenance of all the trees and areas of the common and is to send a program of two-yearly maintenance, partitioning the common into four parts.

A meeting with Stephen Marsden , Forestry Agent and Consultant in South East England Conservancy is to be arranged. **All members to be advised of time and date.**

Footpaths:

No comment

Roads:

Richard noted that work on the pavement in Church Road was underway. Concerns about the state of the verge on the north side and there only being two drainage points were raised. **Caro** to be informed, observations to be made after the completion of the work. Terry praised the courteous and accommodating attitude of the workmen. Peter reported that the Storeys were concerned that legal papers would not be in place prior to the pavement outside their house being used, making them possibly liable for any accidents. **Michael** to report both to HCC.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:

Richard reported that a Management Committee meeting was to be held on Monday 13th March to organise the redecoration programme for this year. Fran observed there were deep ruts in the grass area at the end of the car park. Terry reported that plans for sound

insulation for the film club were on hold as no other materials were available. **Philip** to remind Peter Coates about cutting back the hedge behind the war memorial. **Bridget** to chase EHDC regarding the removal of the bin.

Allotments:

Due for letting in April for the season.

18/06 PLANNING

Richard reported that Bedales were given planning permission for their Masterplan at the EHDC South Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 2nd March. Peter gave a summary of the meeting and the conditions and limits placed on Bedales and there was a discussion between members.

Decisions Made (January 10th – March 5th)

F.230100/056	Bedales School	Masterplan	Objection	Permission
F.20100/057	Bedales School	Outline Masterplan – Revised School Travel Plan Details	Objection	Permission
F.230100/058	Bedales School	Construction of Music School after demolition of existing	Objection	Permission

Decisions New and Pending

F.27898/014	Garden Hill Cottage, Island Farm Lane	Dormers to front and alterations to porch and two storey extensions to side and rear following demolition of outbuildings.	No Objection
F.49339	Kettlebrook Cottages	Conversion of dwelling into two	No Objection
F.25511/005	Cobblers, Mill Lane	External staircase to rear of Garage	No Objection

19/06 FINANCE

The current account stands at £11960.85 following an interest payment of £23.50 in January.

Richard reported that he had received a request to increase the Parish Council’s donation to Steep PCC. Following discussions it was agreed that **Bridget** would write with a one-

off donation of £500 and invite David Dobson to talk to the P.C. before any annual increase was agreed.

The following cheque was approved at the meeting:

800229	N. W. Adams (Playground Inspection)	£64.63
800230	B. MacMillan (Salary and Expenses)	£834.66
800231	HAPTC (Subscription Fee)	£200.00
800233	Steep PCC (donation)	£500.00

It was agreed to pay for the Local Council Review subscription for 3 years to receive a small saving in the cost.

20/06 CORRESPONDENCE

Bridget reported that she had received the following correspondence:

A request for support from the NCT for the Save the Grange Campaign: After discussion it was agreed that **Bridget** would draft a letter of support.

Steep, A village History from G. Timmins: Councillors requested that it be passed round to all and for **Bridget** to write thanking Mr. Timmins.

EHDC Statement on Community Involvement: **Peter** to respond in accordance to previous discussions on the matter. David requested that he see the response prior to it being sent.

Peter to try to reinstate the web site with Phil Morris.

21/06 Next Council Meeting –
Wednesday 10th May – 7.15pm