

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan
01730 261666

Minutes of the Steep Parish Annual Parish Assembly, held on Wednesday 10th May 2006 at Steep Village Hall

Present: Richard Coles (in the Chair) Terry Cook Charles Gibson
Caro Robinson Fran Box Lyn Peters
Phillip Mileham David Llewlllyn

In Attendance: Michael Cartwright (County Councillor)
Jennifer Gray (District Councillor)
Councillor Yvonne Parker Smith (Chairman EHDC)
Bridget MacMillan (Clerk)

16 Members of the Public were present

APM06/01 APOLOGIES

Peter Cruttenden sent his apologies.

APM06/02 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2005 were agreed as an accurate record.

APM06/03 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Richard Coles reported that this year had one of mixed fortunes.

He informed the meeting that after a long wait the pavement had been extension in Church Road had been completed, with the exception to one pole in the middle. Traffic calming strips were also now in place.

Richard considered that the Council had had a partial success in its efforts to ease the Bedales traffic problems. The school had now implemented a travel plan, including minibuses and car sharing schemes as well as monitoring the traffic levels and stated that they wanted these to succeed.

Richard reported that many additional meeting had taken place regarding the Steep shop and affordable housing scheme. He informed the meeting that there were no concrete plans as yet to put to a public meeting and that the council was aware of some opposition to the scheme. He added a further update would take place in the AGM of Steep Parish Council following the meeting.

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

Richard reported that in the past 12 months there had been less planning applications than the previous year. There were 32 planning applications, of those the Parish Council objected to 7. Of those 7, 2 were refused and 3 were given permission. One was revised and one withdrawn. Steep Parish Council made no objections to 16 applications and no objection with comments to 9, of which 22 have received planning permission, 2 were refused and one was withdrawn.

Richard told the meeting that there were still plans to replace the play equipment on the Common, possibly in a new position. The Council had consulted experts and a new management programme was planned for the Common and surrounding woodland. This would take place over a five-year period as nothing had been done for approximately 30 years.

He informed the meeting that the village hall lettings were very good and more internal decoration was planned for the summer, to include the hallway, meeting room and toilets having had the large hall, kitchen and disabled entrance repainted last year. There would also be a new storage cupboard built in the meeting room so that chairs could be removed from the disabled entrance and stored.

The allotments continued to be used for pony grazing and all three were fully let for the year and no major problems had been reported for the footpaths.

Richard told the meeting that David Llewellyn had been welcomed on to the council following the resignation of Maggie Owen.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking the District Councillor, Jenny Gray and the County Councillor, Michael Cartwright, for their attendance and taking on board the concerns of the Council during the year. He thanked all the Parish Councillors for their support throughout his year in office. Finally he thanked the clerk for her hard work in a year when so many additional meetings had taken place.

APM06/04 FINANCE REPORT

Bridget MacMillan reported to the meeting the Parish Council.

The figures as at March 31st 2006 were as follows:

Portman Building Society	£10761.56
Hampshire County Council Investment	£16,803.31
Total cash and Investments	£27,564.87

Donations

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

All Saints Churchyard maintenance	£662.00
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Steep and Stroud Newsletter	£240.00
Victim Support	£50.00
Citizen's Advice Bureau	£135.00
Total	£1087.00

Receipts

The Parish Council received a precept of £7000.00 for the year 2005/2006

The precept has been set for £7000.00 for the year 2006/2007

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

The interest earned on deposit investments was £700.71

APM06/05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Michael Cartwright spoke as County Councillor representing Steep and surrounding areas. He told the meeting that it was his 9th year as a County Councillor and his 1st as our representative. He thanked the Parish Council for their help and cooperation this year. He explained his responsibilities at the County level and the committees he was involved in. These included being Vice-Chairman of the Pensions Fund Panel and Chairman of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

He informed the meeting that the County had had a difficult time setting the budget at 4.7% mainly due to a deficit in the Adult Social Services department, which had to be carried over.

Michael informed the meeting that although delayed it was still intended to start the Hampshire Action Teams, which aim to enhance local partnership actions, give more local responsibility and provide effective local monitoring.

Michael read a letter from the School Improvement Manager regarding Steep Primary School congratulating the school on the quality of its provision over 7 years.

He reported that there was to be a meeting in Froxfield on Friday 12th May regarding the closure of Stoner Hill. He stated that Hampshire County Council was committed to reopening the road after it was closed on March 30th for serious safety problems. He informed the meeting that it would take a considerable amount of time to repair the road, there were many options to consider and a further announcement was due to be made at the meeting on Friday. He was aware of the extreme inconvenience to Froxfield residents and other local users of the road. He acknowledged receipt of a petition requesting the permanent closure of the road but restated the Council's intention to reopen it.

APM06/06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Jenny Gray, District Councillor, thanked Richard and the Parish Council for their support during the past year. She informed the meeting that East Hants District Council has achieved Beacon status for recycling. They had raised their budget by 2.5%, the same as inflation. One million pounds was available

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for new initiatives including household glass collection. The free parking scheme had been announced a success and would be repeated this year. Area Committees would keep their grants.

Jenny reported that 34 schools now had travel plans in place and Bedales was the first public school to do so.

Jenny told the meeting that a new chairman had been elected for EHDC: Ferris Cowper who was previously chair of the Finance Committee.

APM06/07 PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were directed to Jenny regarding the District Council's status for affordable housing. Jenny confirmed that the Council held Beacon Status for affordable housing.

Public comments were directed to Michael regarding the closure of Stoner Hill relating to the petition results and whether further restrictions could be put in place. Michael reassured the members of public that the petition would be taken forward, but added that the road had been in use since 1829 and it was unfortunate that the initial press release had suggested that there was any chance it could remain closed. Fran thanked the people who raised the petition and added that the road and the traffic levels using it were a concern for residents living in the A.O.N.B. She asked for the Council's support for the suggestion that the road remain closed.

Mark Taylor spoke on behalf of Bedales Schools to give an update on the initiatives to reduce traffic on Church Road. He informed the meeting that two minibuses had started, as well as the station run, and estimated 10 cars had been removed from the traffic flow. He added that the Parent's Association was in full support of the schemes and that the schools were taking the initiatives very seriously. He told the meeting that he would update the community at a later date.

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