

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan
01730 261666

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

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

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

There were 3 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

55/06 APOLOGIES

Lyn Peters sent her apologies.

56/06 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Jenny requested that minute no.48/06 be altered to say ‘...she had requested that District Councillors be informed when Tree Preservations Orders are placed..’ and that ‘...the District Council do sometimes have to act somewhat hastily.’ This was agreed.

Michael Cartwright corrected minute 48/06 in that the letter he had read out had been from Merrick Denton-Thompson and not Paul Thompson.

The minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday 11th September 2006 were then agreed as an accurate record.

57/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded

David asked if Richard had informed Charles of his concerns regarding the declared interest in PHA. Charles responded that he had been informed. After brief discussion David remained unhappy about the matter and informed the meeting he would be looking into it further.

58/06 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs Glover asked if there had been any further developments on the shop and housing proposals. Peter responded that there was none. He made the suggestion that two groups work on the proposal. The first to consider the housing proposals and relook at all the elements such as siting etc. to see if they are still a valid set of propositions and a second group to look at the shop proposals which had been the main problem. Terry suggested that the volunteers of the Shop Committee could reconsider management style and shop proposals if they were willing. David stated, to inform the public, that the letters sent to EHDC and PHA in July clearly said that the shop and housing elements were linked. He then said that he felt it was time to end the project, as it had been uncertain for a long time. Charles suggested that it was time to look at the current funding situation. Terry agreed to report back to the meeting on January 15th.

Mr. Solares asked the Council to confirm whether the shop and housing were linked or not. Richard confirmed that they were linked.

County Councillor

Michael informed the meeting that work was on track on Stoner Hill and should be open at the end of November/beginning of December.

He asked the Chairman what the standing orders for the Council stated, regarding the closing of the meeting for public comment, as he felt he had been bombarded by the public when questions should have come from Councillors when the meeting had reopened after public comment. Richard acknowledged his concerns.

District Councillor

Jenny reported that she had been to Steep Brickyards with Caro and Adele Poulton (EHDC) to meet the owner and believed that the issues regarding the T.P.O's placed on the trees there had been resolved amicably.

She informed the meeting that any objections to T.P.O.'s should be made as soon as possible, during the six-month temporary period, but must be related to planning issues, such as the tree being dangerous. She informed the meeting that the decision was made by the Heritage Team which in the case of the Oak tree on the Common was placed as the tree was felt to be a valuable local amenity. Terry reported that he had been disappointed by the fact that they had requested advice from EHDC who then acted without discussion, when the Parish had been caring for that environment for many years.

59/06 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Common and Hangers:

Terry thanked the Parish Council for backing the fireworks and bonfire event on the Common which had been a great success. He thanked Richard for ensuring the Common was tidied afterwards. He informed the meeting that the plans for tree management needed to go ahead as they were encroaching on the edge of the Common which was interfering with the bonfire and firework display.

Terry told the meeting that Paul Thompson had cancelled the Hangers meeting as he felt there was no issues to discuss. The next meeting was set for May 16th 2007. A working day was set for February and he would inform the meeting in January of the exact date.

Playground: Philip informed the meeting that Alex Jameson had sent new plans and some costings, which were now coming out to nearly £25,000. He suggested that the design is trimmed to bring the cost down. After discussion it was agreed that the combined allocation from the Parish Council, Stacey legacy and Developers' contributions be no more than £7,500 but no cap was set on the total spend.

No further comment was made regarding the Tree Preservation Order on the trees on the Common.

Footpaths:

No Comment

Roads and Traffic:

David would now be reporting problems with the roads to Chris White, with Caro reporting Steep Marsh problems to David. **Fran** to inform public of arrangements in Parish Magazine. Caro reported Pot holes in Mill Lane, by Mill Corner and at the top of Bushy. She also noted that wooden bollards had been placed on Council owned land by the owner of Oakwood House in Bowyers Common Lane, Steep Marsh which could not be clearly seen at night.

Councillors had received a copy of the Bedales Travel Plan Update from Tony Struthers prior to the meeting. Bridget informed the Councillors that Tony would welcome any comments. It was agreed that the figures were an encouraging start to alleviate traffic problems by Bedales which should be congratulated.

David reported that Rev. Kennedy had suggested parishioners from Froxfield and Steep could meet on Stoner Hill to celebrate the reopening of the road.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:

Bridget informed the Councillors that a full fire risk assessment had been carried out by a professional company and new advice was coming into place.

Richard reported that had a letter had been received regarding the bungalow behind the village hall and the oak tree in the car park. It was agreed to allow tree management work to be carried out at the expense of the insurer acting for Mrs. Glover, subject to approval, without accepting liability. A copy of correspondence would be sent to Mrs. Glover.

60/06 PLANNING

Decisions Made (September 12th –November 6th 2006)

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>	<u>EHDC Decision</u>
F.32520/022	Gardeners Farm House, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh	Detached Double Garage and store with office/music room above	No Objection with comments	Permission
F.39284/002 & 3	Greenlands, Stoner Hill.	Replacement single storey side extension, conversion of integral garage to habitable accommodation	No Objection with Comments	Permission
F.34446/003	Stoner Lodge, Stoner Hill	Two dormers in roof to rear	No Objection	Permission
F.29402/004	Corner House, Ridge Common Lane	First floor extension to rear and alterations to roof –	No Obejction	Permission
F.39982/002	Westmark Farm, Midhurst Road	Change of use of five redundant farm buildings to B1 use (offices, research, light industrial) and demolition of Dutch barn –	No Objection	Permission
F.29572/003	May Cottage, Mill Lane	Raising roof height to provide accommodation with dormers to front and rear, single storey extension to side, two storey extension to rear, pitched roof to garage and pitched roof to utility to side	No Objection	Permission
F.24988/007	Broadmeadow Farm, Lythe Lane, Steep	Change of use from Stud farm to livery	No Objection with comments	Permission 13 liveries max.
F.39719/001	Land west of 9 Church Road	Approval of reserved matters pursuant to F.39719 (One dwelling)	No Objection	permission

F.34446/004	Stoner Lodge	Fell or pollard two lime trees (TPO)	No Objection	Pollard no lower than 4 metres
F.21382/011	Steep Lawn Tennis Club, Church Road, Steep.	Removal of condition one of F.21382/010 to allow the continued use of floodlighting to tennis courts (nos. 5 & 6)	Objection	Refusal

Decisions New and Pending

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>
F.23436/003	Rose Cottage, Ridge Common Lane	Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation	No Objection
F.34626/001	1 Stoner House, Stoner Hill	Single storey extension to front (after demolition of conservatory)	No Objection
F.29135/002	Winters, Ridge Common Lane.	Replacement garage and kitchen extension (amendment to F.29135/001)	

Caro reported that the wooden structure which had been built in Sandy Lane had been reported to Dane Swallow (Development Inspector at EHDC) who had informed Caro that the matter was “in hand.”

Caro reported that a meeting had taken place at the Brickyards in Steep Marsh between Jenny Gray (district Councillor) Adele Poulton (Arbicultural officer at EHDC) There was another man there called Stephen d'Este Hoare (Principal Landscape Officer) EHDC and Mr and Mrs. Ryder the owners of the land in question regarding the TPOs. She told councillors that the meeting had been amicable, full and frank. It was confirmed that only some of the trees would keep their TPO status rather than the overall blanket, which had been imposed. Some of the trees and lower ground shrubs would be outside the order. Adele was intending to submit a survey for perusal. Mr. Ryder stated that he had plans and ideas for the area but was as yet unwilling to share them as they were still only ideas. Caro suggested that he shared them with the village via the residents association as soon as possible to halt any spreading of rumours.

61/06 FINANCE

Councillors had received the 7 month figures with the agenda. Bridget confirmed that this was the current financial position of the Council. No comments were made by Councillors.

Bridget reported that due to the pending take-over of The Portman by Nationwide the bank account would remain open to allow for the windfall payment to be made.

Following on from discussions at the September meeting (minute 51/06) it was decided that Richard, Terry and Caro would be signatories on the new bank accounts and that a sum of £ 13,500 would be transferred to the savings account at the Alliance and Leicester and £1,000 would be transferred to the Co-operative Bank with the remainder being left in the Portman for the time being. **Bridget to action.**

A donation request from Steep Parochial Council towards a new mower for the churchyard was agreed but that it should be clear this is a donation and not a commitment to provide on-going costs.

The following cheque was approved at the meeting:

800248 Steep Parochial Council £250.00

62/06 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Bridget reported that the following correspondence had been received:

Froxfield Parish Council had thanked Councillors for their sympathy in the letter sent following the September meeting.

HAPTC have informed Councils of their responsibilities regarding the Age Discrimination Act. Bridget to check her contract of employment for ageist inclusions and to ensure there is a grievance and discipline statement.

63/06 Next Council Meeting –
Monday 15th January 2007 – 7.30pm