

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan
01730 261666

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 11th September 2006 at 7.30pm at Steep Village Hall

Present: Richard Coles (in the chair) Terry Cook Caro Robinson
Philip Mileham Fran Box Lyn Peters
David Llewellyn

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

There were 9 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

45/06 APOLOGIES

Peter Cruttenden and Charles Gibson sent their apologies.

46/06 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

David requested that line 6 of the minute no. 39/06 be altered as he felt it did not clearly state what Richard had said. After discussion a vote was taken and not carried. The minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday 3rd July 2006 were agreed as an accurate record.

47/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded. Bridget informed the Councillors that their Members Interests forms needed to be renewed and requested that they complete these by Monday 18th September. David informed the meeting that he felt it was not right that Charles had said how he would vote on a matter that he had a declared interest in. (Charles did not take part in the vote) He suggested that Charles' opinion on how he would vote might influence other Councillors. Other councillors denied this. **Richard** agreed to minute David's concern and bring it to Charles' attention.

48/06 PUBLIC COMMENT

The Council was asked for an update on the shop/housing project. Richard responded that no further action had been undertaken. He informed members of the public that a meeting with Julia Potter, Head of Housing and Property Services at EHDC, was being arranged for a general discussion on the matter but no date had yet been set.

Richard agreed to ask Julia about a parishioner's concerns that her daughter had been told she would not get a home despite living in the village all her life as she didn't have enough points and to also to seek reassurance that Steep residents remained at the top of the list.

A question was raised as to whether the Cricketers Pub was willing to house a shop as discussed at the previous meeting. David responded that he had not yet met with the landlord but would do so.

The Councillors were asked for their opinions on the proposals by HCC to fence in the Shoulder of Mutton part of the Hangers, despite earlier agreement that if volunteers worked on the Hangers they would not do this. Michael responded as Chair of the Consultative committee by reading a letter that Paul Thomson had sent to the Ashford Hangers Preservation Society explaining that it was a funding issue.

Further discussion followed and the public were informed that it was hoped that Paul Thomson would be attending the next Parish Council meeting where further questions could be asked.

The Councillors were asked to thank the parishioner who had been clearing the footpath from Hayes Cottages to Island Farm as it had become particularly overgrown. Lyn responded that she had spoken to Barry Lockyer (Area Rights of Way Officer (East), HCC) about several paths and an update on cutting was due to be undertaken. He had also assured Lyn that the path from Stoner Hill to Hayes Cottages should be cut shortly. He had also reminded the Council that only surface cutting was their responsibility and overhanging was to be dealt with by the landowners either side.

Michael Cartwright informed the meeting that work on Stoner Hill was underway and should be completed before the end of the year.

Jenny Gray informed the meeting that she had requested that District Councillors be informed before Tree Preservation Orders are placed rather than after them and suggested that the District Council had been acting somewhat hastily.

She reported that the site meeting for the blanket T.P.O on the Brickyards and Steep Marsh would take place at 2.30pm on 16th October. **Caro** hoped to attend.

49/06 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Common and Hangers:

Terry reported that he and Philip had attended a consultative meeting regarding the Hangers on the 19th July. He said that it had been dominated by the proposals to fence five areas of the Hangers for sheep grazing: Little Mutton, Junipers, Jack's meadow and one in Froxfield Parish are already partly fenced and Shoulder of Mutton was now due to be also. Terry informed the meeting that HCC now had to apply for a higher scheme for funding and were being told that they must fence Shoulder of Mutton to get funding for the other areas. Terry reported that he felt the grazing on other areas had not improved the grasslands or contained the scrub. **Terry** to ask for a comparison of the cost of keeping sheep versus the £1900 funding to be received.

Terry informed the meeting that Lutcombe Pond had also been discussed and HCC had agreed to consider concerns over the leak and to look into silt removal. The area around the pond had been trimmed.

Terry reported that further chemical spraying to contain the dogwood on Junipers was taking place as agreed to previously.

Terry announced that the bonfire and fireworks were set for Sunday 5th November and asked the Council to insure the event as previously. The Councillors agreed to this.

Playground: Philip reported that Alex Jamieson had assured him that scale drawings of his proposals would be completed by mid-October ready for the next meeting.

Footpaths:

Lyn reported that Barry Locker had sent her the cutting list and asked Councillors to help update it. She reported that the paths were cut in strict rotation but they hoped to be in Steep over the next few weeks. Caro asked if that included Steep Marsh.

Lyn informed the meeting that Barry had said that the stile and fence at the entrance to footpath 17 would not be reinstated for equal access issues despite parishioners' complaints that people were using the area to park in. A broken stile had also been reported.

Philip said that there were only 2 rangers for the whole area and that West Sussex didn't provide any, He felt we were lucky to have them and informed the meeting that they worked hard on other things as well as looking after the 500miles of footpaths.

Roads:

Caro reported that she had received complaints about the state of the hedges leading from Steep Marsh to the A3 and was approaching the owner. The dumped cars had been dealt with. She raised concerns over the state of the road at the top of Bushy.

David reported concerns over the state of the hedges along the allotment in Church Road. **Richard and Terry** to deal with.

Terry asked if the Council would be prepared to write to Froxfield Parish Council expressing sympathy for their difficult times regarding the Stoner Hill closure. Jenny informed the meeting that Froxfield Parish Council had asked what Steep Parish Council's views were. All agreed. **Bridget** to write.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:

Richard informed the Councillors that the new cupboard and redecorating had been completed over the summer holidays.

Terry asked Councillors if they would be willing to bring in someone to deal with the vegetation encroaching on the car park from the allotment. Councillor agreed. **Terry** to contact Neil Bower for an estimate.

Fran expressed concern over the state of the yew behind the war memorial and asked if better planting could be provided without stepping on Bedales's toes. She informed the meeting that Sylvia Struthers had volunteered to carry out the new planting and soil improvement. Councillors agreed that no money had been spent on the up-keep of the Memorial for some time and that up to £200 could be spent. **Fran** to contact Sylvia with a budget of up to £200 to spend on improvements. **Philip** to contact Bedales regarding the cutting of the Yew.

Bridget informed the Councillors of new fire regulations coming into force on October 1st, putting the responsibility for fire safety on those responsible for community buildings. She informed the meeting that the management committee were meeting the following day to discuss this and put the risk assessment in place and they would report back at the next Council meeting.

South Downs Joint Committee:

Terry reminded the meeting that he sat on this committee as a farmer with a declared interest for Steep Parish Council and asked that if anyone else would like to join him they contact him.

50/06 PLANNING

Decisions Made (July 4th – September 11th 2006)

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>	<u>EHDC Decision</u>
F.26533/00 3	49 Church Road	Replacement detached double garage to front	Objection	Refusal
F.21382/10	Steep Tennis Club	Installation of floodlighting to tennis courts (no.s 5 & 6) Revised Scheme	Objection	Temporary Permission
F.25370/00 1	Penny Fold, 75 Church Road	Single Storey Extension to side.	No Objection	Permission

F.21386/00 3	Island Cottage, The Island	Two Storey Extension, conservatory, porch and detached garage (renewal of planning permission F.21386/002)	No Objection	Permission
F.20324/02 0	Dunannie School, Bell Hill, Petersfield.	Single storey extension to side – timber barn	No Objection	Permission

Decisions New and Pending

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>
F.32520/02 2	Gardeners Farm House, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh	Detached Double Garage and store with office/music room above	No Objection with comments
F.39284/00 2 & 3	Greenlands, Stoner Hill.	Replacement single storey side extension, conversion of integral garage to habitable accommodation	No Objection with Comments
F.34446/00 3	Stoner Lodge, Stoner Hill	Two dormers in roof to rear	
F.29402/00 4	Corner House, Ridge Common Lane	First floor extension to rear and alterations to roof –	
F.39982/00 2	Westmark Farm, Midhurst Road	Change of use of five redundant farm buildings to B1 use (offices, research, light industrial) and demolition of Dutch barn –	
F.29572/00 3	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 –	
F.24988/0 07	Broadmeadow Farm, Lythe Lane, Steep	Change of use from Stud farm to livery	

Jenny informed the meeting that the decision to award temporary permission to the tennis court had been made before she had been able to ask for it to go to committee. She said that the club would need to apply for permission to be renewed annually. She reported that both she and Richard had attended the appeal regarding the appeal by the White's for the extension of sand school hours. She did not feel the appeal would go in the Council's favour and told the meeting that it was getting harder for the District to refuse plans as it

was too costly to go to appeal. The council had also lost the appeal by the White's regarding the extension to garage with flat over.

Caro reported that she had investigated the stodham Lane site as requested and that the barns were within planning permission. (Minute 31/06)

Caro also reported that the caravan at Gardener's Farm had now been removed.

51/06 FINANCE

Bridget reported that the Alliance and Leicester Business Bank had a new deposit account for community use with an interest rate of 3.82 % A.E.R.

Following on from discussions at the previous meeting (minute 42/06) it was decided to move the current account to The Co-op bank to take advantage of free banking and to place any additional funds into the Alliance and Leicester.

As Bridget would have access to internet banking it was decided to still process all third party transactions out of the current account with two signatures – as per regulations; but to allow her authorisation to transfer money between the various PC accounts (current/deposit/HCC) to ensure that the money is where it needs to be and maximise interest earning capability. **Bridget** to action.

Donation requests from Neighbourhood Watch and Steep Newsletter/churchyard were agreed.

Councillors agreed for Bridget to attend a training session for Clerk's in Winchester.

The following cheque was approved at the meeting:

800242	Data Protection (Register renewal)	£35.00
800243	B. MacMillan (Salary and Expenses) (including correction from last pay)	£941.67
800244	Steep Churchyard	£170.00
800245	Steep Newsletter	£250.00
800246	Neighbourhood Watch	£30.00
800247	HAPTC (training)	

52/06 CORRESPONDENCE

Bridget reported that the following correspondence had been received:

HAPTC – The Commons Act. The first part of this will be the update of registration of common lands. The second part deals with the formation of Commons Councils – although this should not affect our Common, as no grazing rights exist for it. The act also allows for common land to be moved to green land, which may be more use for the community. Terry said that he believed the Rock pit Hollow triangle to be common land also.

The chairman of the Ashford Hangers Preservation Committee has written to ask for support in resisting the fencing in of grassland on the Shoulder of Mutton part of the Ashford Hangers as HCC wish to do. It was agreed to respond with support and to inform him of the attendance of Paul Thomson at the next meeting.

EHDC – Dog control Orders – Consultation regarding DCO's and whether the current byelaws are sufficient. Councillors reported an increase in use of footpaths, particularly up from Tilmore Road along with the amount of dog mess

despite signage to remove it. **Fran** to add note highlighting the problem in her report for the Parish magazine.

EHDC Workshops – Open Space Provision and South Downs management Plan and Planning Guidelines Workshops at Liphook. Any Councillors interested in attending should contact Bridget.

Encams – A new pack with details of how to deal with environmental issues such as fly tipping and rubbish. **Bridget** to email the Councillors details of the website.

EHDC Chairman's Visit – Councillor Brian Dutton has expressed interest in attending a Parish Council meeting. **Bridget** to send new dates to him.

Regarding the letter to support the bid to the South Downs Joint Committee Sustainability Fund for of support for the appointment of Community Planner who would assist and take forward the Parish and Town Plans in the East Hants area of the South Downs – Bridget reported that an email had been received to say that unfortunately the bid had been unsuccessful.

53/06 Dates for 2007 were agreed as follows:

Monday 15th January 2007

Monday 5th March

Wednesday 9th May – APM, AGM

Monday 2nd July

Monday 15th September

Monday 12th November

54/06 Next Council Meeting –

Monday 6th November – 7.30pm