

## **STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN** Mr Richard Coles

**CLERK** Mrs Bridget MacMillan 01730 261666

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7.30pm at Steep Village Hall

Present: Richard Coles (in the chair) Terry Cook Charles Gibson  
Caro Robinson Fran Box David Llewellyn  
Jo Bell Jenny Martin

In Attendance:  
Bridget MacMillan (Clerk)

There were 5 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

12/07 **APOLOGIES**

Michael Cartwright (County Councillor) Jenny Gray (District Councillor) and Philip Mileham sent their apologies.

13/07 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting, the AGM, dated Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May were agreed as an accurate record.

David reported that the website would be updated when Ray Street was available later in the summer.

He reported that Bedales had revamped the noticeboard at no cost to the Council. Councillors agreed that it looked very good and thanked Bedales.

14/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded

15/07 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A parishioner told the meeting that she felt there was support for a village green as described in the Village Design Statement and asked for an allotment on the site next to the village hall. Richard responded, broadly welcoming her efforts to further investigate support for the idea and available funding.

A parishioner expressed concern that if there were a shop, housing and village green used for community events and play equipment all in the same area of the village there would be traffic implications.

16/07 **REPORT TO NEWSLETTER**

Caro reported that she had been approached by some parishioners regarding the reports of Council meetings given to the Newsletter and suggested that they become an official report, approved by Richard or written by the clerk. After discussion David proposed that Fran continue to write the reports with approval by the chairman prior to submission. This was lost by 5 votes to 1. Richard proposed that the clerk write the reports to the newsletter. This was resolved by 5 votes to 1.

17/07 **ADOPTION OF THE NEW CODE OF CONDUCT**

Councillors had been briefed on the new code at the previous meeting. Bridget reported that she had attended the training session on the new code of conduct run by EHDC in June. It was agreed to adopt the new code in its entirety with the inclusion of paragraph 12 (2) to allow a member to make representations, answer questions and give evidence like a member of the public when they have a prejudicial interest, before retiring from any vote. It was resolved unanimously to adopt The Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 with the inclusion of Paragraph 12 (2).

Councillors signed a new Declaration of Office to this effect. **Bridget** to place advertisement and send confirmation to The Standards Board and EHDC.

18/07 BENCH FOR SIR ALEC GUINNESS

Following a discussion by the Trustees of SVWMC at their AGM Councillors were asked if they wished to provide a bench and some enhancements to the small green area in Steep Marsh in recognition of Sir Alec Guinness who lived there for many years. Bridget informed the Council that the Steep Marsh Residents Association had been approached for their views and was waiting for a response. After discussion regarding the style of bench and the possibility of some planting Councillors agreed to progress with more detailed ideas, at a maximum cost of £600, provided the residents association was in favour.

19/07 REPORT FROM CLLR ROBINSON REGARDING THE WAR MEMORIAL

Councillors had received written information prior to the meeting. Caro reported that she was still looking for the third quote necessary for grant funding before a final decision could be made by the council regarding the restoration of the plaque and patching of the stonework. **David** agreed to take photographs of the plaque to ensure the names were correctly redone.

20/07 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**Common and Hangers:**

Play Equipment: Jenny reported that a design from ‘Wood Themes’ had been submitted following a site visit and showed councillors examples of the company’s work. Councillors agreed with 5 votes to go ahead with the scheme, including the slide, provided funding could be found. The maximum available from the Parish Council was confirmed at £7500.00.

Hangers Committee: Terry reported that there had finally been a meeting with HCC. Paul Thomson has postponed the application to fence the Hangers until next year and will talk to the Parish Council during the winter to discuss the issue. Terry confirmed that Froxfield was also against the fencing of the Hangers.

Common Woodland: No further development as funding has been suspended until the autumn. **Bridget** to contact Steven Marsden for an update for the September meeting.

**Footpaths:**

Jo reported that the footpath from Hays Cottages to Stoner Hill had been logged with HCC but not resolved. It was noted that when EHDC were responsible for the footpaths there had been a better response to requests. **Jo** to continue to chase. Note to be added to newsletter to inform residents that we were trying.

**Roads and Traffic:**

David reported that HCC had now taken responsibility for the removal of gas bottles from Stoner Hill.

The state of Mill Lane had been reported and was in hand with patching work recommended.

The Ashford Manor corner was ongoing with the broken utilities pipe.

The rating of Church Road had been carried out and David was waiting to hear where it would be placed on the priority list.

Andy Parfitt from HCC was due for a site visit to The Old Stoner BOATway this month although limited finances were available for repair.

The water problem outside the vicarage was now repaired after a second visit from the water company late last week.

Caro reported that the beech hedge on the exit from Ashford Lane onto Stoner Hill was obscuring the sight lines. **Terry** to ask the owners to trim it back.

**Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:**

Richard reported that the trustees had held the AGM and that the main hall was to be redecorated this summer to ceiling height.

**Allotments:**

The allotment on Church Road had been rented for the remainder of the summer.

21/07 PLANNING**Decisions Made** (May 10th – July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007)

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>	<u>EHDC Decision</u>
F. 27898/015	<b>Garden Hill Cottage, Island Farm Lane</b>	Replacement Garage/workshop to side + amendment	No Objection	Permission
F.50144	<b>Land North Windfalls, Ashford Lane</b>	Change of use of land to equestrian and replacement stable block –	No Objection with comments	Refusal
F50267	<b>The Lodge, Bushy Hill, Mill Lane.</b>	Single Storey Extension to side and alterations to fenestration	No Objection	Permission
21242/028	<b>Brickyards, Steep Marsh</b>	Fell 7 ash, coppice 8 willow, 3 hazel, 3 ash and prune 3 willow	No Objection	Permission

**Decisions New and Pending**

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>
F.29289/10	<b>The Annexe, Coppicefield Cottage, Ridge Common Lane</b>	Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use as work room and office	No Objection subject to conditions
F.39284/005	<b>Greenlands, Stoner Hill.</b>	Replacement glazing and alterations to fenestration	No Objection

**Bridget** to contact Jenny Gray re: buildings erected on land north of Windfalls, despite refusal of permission.

22/07 FINANCE

Portman Building Society account stands at £298.81

Co-operative Bank Account stands at £2234.31

Alliance and Leicester Account stands at £11619.32

A donation request from Vitalise was rejected at this time.

The following cheques were approved at the meeting:

P.Kennedy	Internal Audit Fee	£50.00
EHDC	Election Costs	£1406.89
P Cruttenden	Web costs	£11.73

23/07 CORRESPONDENCE

Richard reported that Hyde Housing would like to talk to the Councillors about a shop/housing project. After discussion, councillors agreed to have a meeting with them. Richard agreed to give a brief report at the next council meeting following the meeting.

**National Park Consultation.**

Bridget reported that a six-week period of consultation over new proposed boundaries was opened today. The new proposals would mean that some of the parish was in the national park and other parts out. Councillors discussed aspects of the boundary changes.

The main points raised were;

- If the Hangers were in the park and the village was out would the village lose it's A.O.N.B. status?
- The implications of planning controlled by a committee in Lewes, only half of whom had been elected.

Councillors requested a briefing on the issue. **Bridget** to contact Nigel Paren of Liss P.C. who was a representative on the forum committee, to seek a briefing.

24/07 Next Council Meeting –  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Meeting closed at 9.55pm