

## STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan 01730 261666

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 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 Lyn Peters David Llewellyn

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

There were 7 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

12/07 APOLOGIES

Jenny Gray (District Councillor) sent her apologies

13/07 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meetings dated Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were agreed as an accurate record with a wording alteration, replacing "Aim: To reduce reserves held by Parish Council." With "These items of planned expenditure will have the effect of reducing the reserves held by the Parish Council.

14/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded

15/07 PUBLIC COMMENT

Two members of the public spoke regarding a planning application for Fox Hollow, Ridge Common Lane. Councillors noted their comments.

16/07 County Councillor

Michael confirmed that HCC had set a 4.9% rise for their portion of the Council Tax for the year 2007/8

He reported that the listening meeting for H.A.T.S in Greatham last month had been positive and he would advise of any progress made on topics raised.

17/07 Councillors considered their response to a letter received from Davies Loss Adjusters requesting the removal of the oak tree in the village hall car park which they felt was impacting on 31 Church Road. It was suggested that this should be done over two years, first pollarding the tree before removing it entirely so as not to cause further damage and that any liabilities for works should remain with the loss adjusters. **Bridget to draft letter.**

18/07 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**Common and Hangers:**

Stephen Marsdon: Councillors had received his report prior to the meeting. It was reported that the school were not interested in any joint work on their piece of the wood. It was agreed that a village working party was not appropriate in this instance and that £150.00 be paid to prepare the applications to English Woodlands for funding later in the year.

It was also agreed that the entrance to the Common would be repaired with chalk to build up ruts left by vehicles once the ground was dry.

Hangers: Councillors were keen to get an assurance from Paul Thompson that no action would be taken on the fencing of the Hangers until they had met with Paul Thompson. **Bridget** to continue to try to arrange this meeting and to write asking for this assurance.

Playground Equip: The sub-committee reported that an alternative scheme utilising the redundant Dunhurst play equipment with additional individual ready-made pieces might be possible. They would report back in May with full details.

**Footpaths:**

It was reported that hedges along footpath 22a needed attention. **Lyn** to deal with. It was agreed to research the possibility and costs of a map board by the bench at the top of Mill Lane as well as on the reverse of the proposed board for by the village hall.

**Roads and Traffic:**

Previous problems along Church Road, the pot holes and fallen sign, had been reported and dealt with. The patching on Mill Lane had been done. Ashford Lane flooding problems were in progress although Councillors were doubtful that this would be resolved.

Other problems noted were; Downgate Corner – water channels not deep enough, Ashford Lane to Rockpit Lane – surface ridged badly and fly tipping at top of Rockpit Lane – EHDC attending Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:**

Notice boards:

It was reported that Bedales would revamp the current notice board and then design and cost the new one as a project with the students in the autumn.

It was agreed to pay £135.00 for the revamp of the board in Steep Marsh.

The Management Committee were reminded that a Spring Clean for the village hall had been discussed and agreed. They reported that a second weekly cleaner had not yet been found and it was agreed to place a request in the village newsletter. Bridget reported that a further £3224 had been received from the Sir Alec Guinness Estate.

**Allotments:**

Nine small trees of various types had been received from EHDC and Richard was potting them on at home. The hedges on the Church Road allotment had been cut and Neil Bower was due to do the work on the Eastern boundary this month.

19/07 PLANNING

**Decisions Made (January 16<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup> 2007)**

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>	<u>EHDC Decision</u>
F.23436/003	<b>Rose Cottage, Ridge Common Lane</b>	Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation	No Objection	Permission
F.27675/004	<b>Field - Brambles, 1 Steep Marsh Farm Cottages</b>	Change of use of land to riding arena	Objection	Refused
F.32052/002	<b>1 Clifton Cottages, Ridge Common Lane, Steep.</b>	Two storey and single storey extensions to side		Withdrawn

**Decisions New and Pending**

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>
F.34446/006	Stoner Lodge, Stoner Hill, Steep	Prune one lime tree – tree subject to T.P.O.	No Objection
F.23434/004	Rose Cottage, Ridge Common Lane.	Detached 3 bay garage to side	
F.49846/001	Land adjacent to Higher Lutcombe, Cockshott Lane, Froxfield.	Retention of shed	

Bridget reported that she had had further correspondence from EHDC planning services regarding problems receiving planning applications electronically. A response has been made. A letter of support for the spot listing of Northfield cottage as a temporary measure was agreed.

20/07 FINANCE

Bridget reported that the two new bank accounts were opened but that money transfers had not yet been cleared.

Portman Building Society account stands at £1206.98

Co-operative Bank Account stands at £0 (awaiting 1,000 transfer)

Alliance and Leicester Account stands at £0 (awaiting 12,500.00 transfer)

The following cheques were approved at the meeting:

Clerk's salary, expenses	£888.17
C.A.B (donation under s.142)	£200.00
T Cook (Hedge cutting)	£122.20
HAPTC (Subscription)	£220.00
(Steep Marsh Notice board)	£135.00

21/07 CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from PHA had been received informing the Parish Council that it had written off the money it had spent so far as it believed the scheme was unlikely to go ahead. It was agreed to respond to the letter received with a short acknowledgement. **Bridget** to draft.

Phillip reported that Ray Street had expressed interest in running the village website. The Councillors welcomed this and agreed that **Peter** liaise with him.

22/07 Next Council Meeting –  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May – 7.15pm APM and AGM**

Meeting closed at 9pm