

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan 01730 261666

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 2007 At Steep Village Hall

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

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

There were 6 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

23/07 **APOLOGIES**

Jenny Gray (District Councillor) sent her apologies

24/07 **DECLARATION TO ACCEPT THE OFFICE AND MEMBERS INTERESTS FORMS**

All Councillors signed their declaration of acceptance to office. They received Members Interests forms to complete.

25/07 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Caro proposed that Richard should be elected as Chairman of Steep Parish Council, thanking him for his hard work and keeping the Council under control, and Philip seconded the proposal. Councillors were unanimous in supporting the proposal and Richard was duly elected Chairman of Steep Parish Council.

Responsibilities

It was decided that responsibilities would be shared out as follows:

Allotments - Richard

Common – Terry and Charles

Footpaths – Jo and Jenny

Roads – Caro and David

The Hangers – Terry and Philip

Steep War Memorial Village Club –Richard and Caro

Play Equipment – Charles, Philip and Jenny

Planning – All members, as required

26/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded.

27/07 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday 5th March 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

David agreed to follow up the reinstatement of the website with Peter Cruttenden.

The Parish noticeboard will be spruced up by Bedales and the new design project will begin in the Autumn.

28/07 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

There were no matters discussed from the annual parish meeting.

29/07 PUBLIC COMMENT

The Council was asked how often the bin at the War Memorial should be emptied. The Councillors were reminded that this bin could actually be removed so rubbish was taken home. **Philip** agreed to remove it the next day.

30/07 CODE OF CONDUCT AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Bridget reported that a revised code of conduct had been passed through parliament and would need to be adopted by October. Councillors received an update on the changes from the current code and agreed to finalise this at the meeting on July 2nd.

Bridget reported that the Government had issued a supplementary paper to consult on the principle of amending the 2004 Regulations, specifically whether the 2004 Regulations should be amended to deal with the identified problem of requests that were disproportionately burdensome on public authority resources.

31/07 ADOPTION OF END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

Bridget informed the meeting that draft accounts for the year ending 31st March 2007 had been circulated with the agenda. Caro proposed the adoption of the accounts and approval of the Annual Governance Statement and Terry seconded. The Council agreed unanimously to adopt the accounts for the year ending March 31st 2007.

32/07 AGREED PAYMENTS

The following cheques were approved at the meeting

100005 Insurance Renewal	£369.65
100006 Newsletter/Welcome Pack	£125.00

33/07 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Common, Countryside and Hangers:

Horse Shelters - Caro had received a complaint from a parishioner about the number of horse shelters in the parish and asked that the Parish Council be aware of this. It was noted that the Council had objected where possible but the majority of these were temporary shelters not requiring permission.

Common:

It was reported that the Council was waiting for contact from Steven Marsden regarding the plan for the maintenance programme for the Common.

It was agreed that **Philip** would contact Simon Bridger regarding the laying of chalk in the entrance to the Common to build up the ruts.

Hangers:

It was noted that Paul Thompson had not responded to repeated attempts to contact him regarding the fencing of the Hangers. Also the meeting due shortly appeared not to be going ahead.

The work morning in February on Butterfly Walk had been successful.

It was reported that the lay-bys on Stoner Hill were being used for fly-tipping. This problem had been reported but **David** agreed to keep note and check whether it was being cleared from down the slope.

Playground Equipment:

A short discussion took place as to whether there was merit to moving the proposed equipment to the field next to the village hall. It was decided that it should remain at the Common for the time being. **Philip and Jenny** agreed to look at modular pieces and costs for the next meeting.

Footpaths:

The footpath from Hays Cottages to Stoner Hill needs maintenance. **Jo** to contact Barry Lockyer. **Bridget** to check whether the Parish Council has the power to do the maintenance itself.

The Old Coach Road up Stoner is also in need of repair – this has become particularly bad after Stoner Hill was closed. **David** to follow up with Highways.

Roads and Traffic:

It was reported that the rating of Church Road and the debris left on Ashford Lane after the repairs are ongoing.

The leak opposite the Vicarage has been reported but it was agreed that the P.C. could add its weight and write to the water company. **Bridget** to action.

The Councillors questioned the need for so many chevrons on Stoner Hill. **David** to try to keep their reinstatement to a minimum.

The resurfacing of the Harrow end of Sandy Lane, Steep Marsh was downgraded at residents request to filling of holes but now they wish to have it resurfaced after all. **Caro** to action.

A question was raised regarding the erosion of verges in Steep Marsh. After discussion it was agreed that these should be reinstated with spare topsoil if possible to maintain the width of the road and not allow it to become too wide.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:

Councillors were updated on the oak tree in the car park – the insurers for Mrs. Glover have decided to remove the tree in one go and this has been carried out.

It was agreed to consider ideas for extending the equipment and entertainment at the village hall at the AGM on **Monday June 11th**.

Allotments:

It was agreed to give Val Davey one more week to contact Bridget regarding the use of the allotment on Church Road before placing an advert in the Newsletter.

34/07 PLANNING

Decisions Made (March 6th–May 9th 2007)

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>	<u>EHDC Decision</u>
F.32052/002	1 Clifton Cottages, Ridge Common Lane, Steep.	Two storey and single storey extensions to side	Withdrawn	
F.34446/006	Stoner Lodge, Stoner Hill, Steep	Prune one lime tree – tree subject to T.P.O.	No Objection	Consent
F.29572/004	May Cottage, Mill Lane,	Siting of mobile home for temporary period during renovation works to home	No Objection	Permission
F.23434/004	Rose Cottage, Ridge Common Lane.	Detached 3 bay garage to side	No Objection Withdrawn	Permission 2 bay
F.49846/001	Land adjacent to Higher Lutcombe, Cockshott Lane, Froxfield.	Retention of shed	No Objection	Permission
F.23548/001	Fox Hollow, Ridge Common Lane	Replacement Dwelling with garage	Objection	Permission with changes

F.34931/005	Land west of Gardners Farm, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh,	Continued use of agricultural land to equestrian use	Objection	Refusal
F.32052/003	1 Clifton Cottages, Ridge Common Lane, Steep.	Two storey extensions to side	No Objection with comments	Refusal

Decisions New and Pending

F. 27898/015	Garden Hill Cottage, Island Farm Lane	Replacement Garage/workshop to side + amendment	No Objection
F.50144	Land North Windfalls, Ashford Lane, Steep	Change of use of land to equestrian and replacement stable block –	No Objection with comments
21242/028	Brickyards, Steep Marsh	Fell 7 ash, coppice 8 willow, 3 hazel, 3 ash and prune 3 willow	

Concerns had been raised over the additional structures, portakabin etc that had been refused permission on the Pratts Lane site. **Caro** agreed to talk to the concerned parishioners and keep in contact with the enforcement department at EHDC.

35/07 CORRESPONDENCE

Alan Martin – War Memorials Trust. **David and Caro** agreed to follow up the suggestion that some maintenance work be carried out on the Memorial to ensure names could be read.

Richard had received letters regarding the conduct of a member during the run up to the election. These would be available should anyone wish to read them.

36/07 Next Council Meeting –
Monday 2nd July – 7.30pm

(SWMVC AGM – Monday 11th June – 7.30pm)

Meeting closed at 9.25pm