

## **STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN** Mr Richard Coles

**CLERK** Mrs Bridget MacMillan

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at Steep Village Hall

Present:

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

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

There were 10 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

38/07 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

39/07 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

40/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded. Councillors were asked to return their Members' Interests forms as soon as possible.

41/07 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Taylor, representing Bedales welcomed the possibility of an allotment site and offered their help to prepare the land with their tractors and expressed an interest in having an allotment themselves.

The repair work on the War Memorial was noted and appreciated. Bedales were thanked for their winter planting.

42/07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Michael informed the meeting that HCC were responding to the proposed closures of post offices in Hampshire and asked if the Parish Council could also support the proposed closure at Froxfield. Michael reminded the meeting that each County Councillor had £10,000 to spend on projects (not running costs) within their area. £3000 had so far been allocated.

43/07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Jenny reiterated Michael's plea for support for Froxfield post office as their village shop would not survive without one.

44/07 REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT TO BE MOVED ON THE AGENDA

It was reported that several members of the parish had requested that there be a public comment time after each agenda item. Councillors discussed this but on a show of hands it was agreed to leave the public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Councillors noted that they welcome public comments and are available between meetings for contact by parishioners.

Website Update: Ray Street should have the website up and running by the end of the year. Bridget will then put the agenda and minutes etc. on the web for residents to see easily.

45/07 POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Councillors agreed to respond to the consultation regarding the possible closure of Froxfield Post Office. The Council will write in support of the branch remaining open and individuals will be encouraged to respond too. **Bridget** to draft letter, email Froxfield flyer to Councillors and post one on the notice boards.

46/07 MEETING WITH HYDE HOUSING

It was reported that Councillors had met Chris Buchan-Hepburn of Hyde Housing regarding their possible involvement in a housing/shop project with the village. Councillors discussed how they felt the meeting had gone and what they should do now. Points raised included; an initial amount of £10,000 per unit had been offered, the viability of building a shop on the proceeds and grants, the possibility of exploring alternative sites around the village, the remaining need for affordable housing and an alternative model to using a housing association.

It was agreed that **Bridget** should contact Julie Eden, Rural housing Enabler, to draw up a programme, walk the village and consult the community.

47/07 ALLOTMENT PROVISION

Bridget informed the meeting that there were now 11 parishioners interested in keeping an allotment.

David reported that Suzi Openshaw had had more response from her flyer around Steep, supporting the allotments and the possibility of play equipment there.

Councillors discussed the practicalities of the allotment site next to the village hall and having play equipment there. It was agreed that **David**, with Philip's assistance, should contact the interested group to investigate the site, draw up an initial plan and set of rules and report back to Councillors.

48/07 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Terry reported that there had been a successful meeting with the co-ordinators and new Rural Police officer, Dave Baker. Mark Taylor has agreed to act as co-ordinator for Church Road West. The Parish Council thanked Stuart Farquharson-Roberts for his long service to the community as head co-ordinator. It was suggested that the Parish Council become more involved and aware of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and Mark Taylor agreed to update the Council regularly.

49/07 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Councillors signed the Child Protection Policy as discussed at the meeting dated 10/09/07 minute no. 31/07.

50/07 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**Common and Hangers:**

Charles reported that grant funding was almost complete for the play equipment and asked the council for its support in an application to release developer's funds earmarked for play equipment in Steep. Councillors agreed.

Terry thanked the Parish Council for its support with the bonfire event, which was a success. Phillip has now taken over as the Council representative on the bonfire committee. Terry was thanked for his longstanding work on the committee and ensuring the event continued.

Hangers: As Paul Thompson is still away from work no further discussion on the fencing of the Shoulder of Mutton has taken place. HCC has decided not to dredge Lutcombe Pond due to the disturbance of pond life. They may dam it to hold the silt back. Councillors were concerned with this decision.

A work morning was announced for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November, where scrub clearing at the bottom of the Shoulder of Mutton would take place. Volunteers appreciated.

**Footpaths:**

A new online reporting centre is now open.

The hedge along the path from Bushy to the chicken sheds needs attention. **Jenny** to deal with.

**Richard** to check the state of the Ridge Common Lane to Rothercombe Farm path.

Funding is being sought for the reinstatement of the Hanger’s Way path from the Common down to Mill Lane. It is hoped that this will be done in the spring.

Work has been started on the path from Ashford Lane to Mill Lane. Councillors will monitor this. **Bridget** to provide new maps for Jo and Jenny.

**Roads and Traffic:**

The fly tipping off Stoner Hill should be cleared by the end of November.

The rating of Church Road should be announced along with all results for the County by the end of the year.

Responsibility for the BOATway lies with the Highways Dept., which has admitted that it is a low priority. An accident was noted there recently – **David** to investigate.

David has reported the mud on the road east of Ashford Chace. This is due to a ditch that needs digging.

**Terry** to cut hedge alongside allotments.

Bridget reported that Tony Struthers had been invited to attend a ‘low key’ meeting with Gwil Williams at Bedales to discuss ‘green issues’ and a recent traffic count. Tony will report back after the meeting.

**Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:**

Caro reported that work had been completed at the War Memorial. The Edward Thomas Trust should like to make a contribution. Grant funding of £685 has already been secured and the Council has previously agreed to pay the remainder.

It was reported that thieves had begun to steal the lead from the village hall window. Luckily they were disturbed and only one sheet was taken. An insurance claim has been made. Carol Glover was thanked for reporting the problem to Richard.

The Management Committee has met and it was reported that the kitchen floor is to be replaced and that letting charges are to be reviewed next year.

Terry noted that Steep Marsh residents had agreed to a seat in memory of Sir Alec Guinness. Work will cost £500 as agreed previously.

51/07 PLANNING

**Decisions Made** (September 11<sup>th</sup> 2007- 12<sup>th</sup> November)

50081	<b>Detached dwelling following demolition of dwelling</b>	53 Church Road, Steep	No Objection	Permission
21382/012	<b>Removal of condition one of F.21382/010 (temporary permission for flood lighting)</b>	Steep Lawn Tennis Club, Church Road, Steep.	No Objection subject to conditions	Permission
50530	<b>Detached double garage/store room</b>	Elmwood Meadows, Burntash Lane, Steep Marsh,	No Objection	Permission
20100/62	<b>Single Storey Prefab. Outbuilding for workshop/storage following removal of workshop/store</b>	Bedales School, Church Road, Steep,	No objection	Permission
32853/002	<b>Detached outbuilding for use as an office</b>	The Island Lodge, The Island, Steep	No Objection	Permission
27898/015	<b>Construction of Basement</b>	Garden Hill Cottage, Island Farm Lane	No Objection	Permission

**Decisions New and Pending**

32052/004	<b>Two storey extension to side and new vehicular access</b>	1 Clifton Cottages, Ridge Common Lane, Steep, Petersfield, GU32 1AJ	No Objection
33948/001	<b>Detached two-storey gate house following demolition of cottage, two storey side extension and formation of rooms in roof space to main house.</b>	Roke House, Mill Lane, Steep, Petersfield, GU32 2DJ	Objection
33825/003	<b>Two storey extension to side, first floor extension to rear with balcony, conservatory to side, detached double garage with cellar following demolition of orangery</b>	Oakhurst, Mill Lane, Steep, Petersfield, GU32 2DJ	No Objection
35044/006	<b>Detached log cabin to side</b>	Rose Cottage, Rockpits Lane, Steep Marsh	Objection

E-planning – Jenny had spoken to Daryl Philips on our behalf. He is willing to provide an A3 printer. Councillors discussed the best way forward and will trial using the website plans where possible. Bridget to print any plans required and to ask for assurance that EHDC will provide large-scale paper copies where we feel it necessary. Details of the A3 printer will be sought.

52/07 FINANCE

Councillors had received a draft copy of the accounts at 7 months prior to the meeting. No comments were made.

Councillors were informed that the external audit was complete and that no recommendations had been made. Notice of conclusion was in place.

Portman Building Society account stands at £293.81

Co-operative Bank Account stands at £986.04

Alliance and Leicester Account stands at £12038.23

Donation requests from Steep PCC for the newsletter and churchyard maintenance and Home Start Butser were agreed. It was noted that eh churchyard was looking well kept.

The following cheques were approved at the meeting:

Steep PCC	Newsletter	£260.00	
Steep PCC	Churchyard	£180.00	
Home Start Butser	Donation	£120.00	
Caro Robinson	Planting at the War Memorial		£66.46

53/07 CORRESPONDENCE

Housing Sites Survey – Councillors had received a copy of this letter prior to the meeting. It was felt that the matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

South Downs National Park – The public inquiry will be re-opened in February. David offered to monitor events.

EHDC Tree Wardens – Councillors were reminded that we have two named tree wardens in the Parish. **Bridget** to contact them and update Councillors.

54/07 Dates for 2008 were agreed.

55/07 Next Council Meeting –  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Meeting closed at 10.10pm