

## STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 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

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

John Venning (South Downs Campaign)  
Tony Struthers  
Ray Street (Website Manager)

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

1/08 APOLOGIES

Jenny Martin sent her apologies.

2/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

3/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Jenny informed the meeting that the grant from the Developer's Contribution fund had been approved.

EHDC have set a budget with a 0% increase on this year.

She informed Councillors that Chris Murray from EHDC planning office would attend the meeting in March to talk to the Councillors about planning applications.

4/08 SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

David reported to the meeting that he had attended the pre-enquiry meeting for the reopening of the enquiry into the National Park. He informed the Council that the South Downs Campaign (SDC) was co-ordinating action to dispute the findings of the Landscape Assessor who had advised that parts of the land in and around Steep were not good enough for the National Park.

John Venning told the Council of new evidence to support the inclusion of the Western Weald. i.e. the quality of the landscape, new legal position clarifying that a variety of landscapes may be included and also the quality of the Landscape Assessment (as this has never been placed in the public domain). The South Downs Campaign has engaged their own landscape assessor to help their case.

Councillors asked questions and discussed the matter for some time. They agreed to a donation of £500 and to join the South Downs Campaign at an annual cost of £25.00

John thanked the Council. **David** to draft letter asking Inspector to reconsider the Western Weald.

5/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded.

6/08 PUBLIC COMMENT

Two members of the public informed the Council that they had agreed to Co-Chair an allotment association and were excited at the prospect of an allotment site. They hoped the Council would support the project.

7/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Michael commented that he was resigned to the Post Office's decision to close rural post offices as HCC were working with the parishes effected.

The budget for HCC will be set in February.

There are still funds available in the County Councillor's scheme.

8/08 VILLAGE WEBSITE

The village website is up and running. Ray Street told the Council that he is seeking a couple of volunteers from the village to help him. He also asked that those with content contact him. He asked for the Councillors feelings on local advertisements/sponsorship which the Councillors agreed with. Councillors agreed that a link to Bedales was sufficient, rather than including their content (with the exception of events in the gallery and theatre as appropriate) Councillors and Ray discussed other possible content and a photographic competition for the site and Ray was thanked for his work so far.

9/08 WAR MEMORIAL

Councillors considered a suggestion from The War Memorials Trust to list the War Memorial. Current flooding is of concern. Councillors agreed to ask for the Memorial to be listed to protect the important names on it. **Caro** to work on listing. **Bridget** to write to EHDC regarding drainage concerns.

10/08 ALLOTMENT PROVISION

David reported that those interested had met to discuss forming an allotment association. 14 parishioners have declared an interest, 5 probables and several others are interested in helping. Their meeting had agreed:

- They wanted the site next to the village hall
- They would form an association
- The association would be accountable to the P.C. for running the site.
- 50sq.m per plot would be manageable, with a suggested cost of £7.50 per plot for the first year.
- The way forward.

Councillors received outline plans, programme and a draft tenancy agreement. They discussed, at length, three options for the way ahead.

1. To allow the allotments to go ahead on the site.
2. To ask the village for their views now.
3. To allow sheep to graze, improving the site, but wait until further discussions with Julie Eden regarding alternative sites for the shop/housing project before committing this site to the allotment project. It was reported that she had begun her appraisals process, walked the village with a planning officer from EHDC and would meet with Councillors shortly, followed by a Community Meeting, to share suggestions.

It was suggested that third option for sheep grazing be accepted. Councillors agreed by majority.

11/08 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**Common and Hangers:**

Terry informed the meeting that the New Year's Day walk was very well attended and thanked the village for their support.

All the grants for the play equipment have been agreed and the quotation from Woodthemes has been accepted. A start date has been requested.

**Footpaths:**

The top part of the footpath from the chicken sheds to Bushy Hill was still very overgrown. **Jo** and **Jenny** to deal with

**Roads and Traffic:**

Caro agreed to contact Highways regarding the flooding on the Steep Marsh to Petersfield road, under the railway bridge. Several pot holes were appearing around the parish. **David** and **Caro** to report as noted.

Church Road rating had been done but HCC are now waiting for the budget for next year before any decisions made.

BOATway – Paul Thompson has submitted a request to be able to do remedial works, now awaiting budget for 08/09.

Flytipping – still not cleared, but still promised.

**Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:**

A new kitchen floor has been laid. The committee and users have been pleased.

12/08 PLANNING

**Decisions Made** (12<sup>th</sup> November – 14<sup>th</sup> January)

32052/004	<b>Two storey extension to side and new vehicular access</b>	1 Clifton Cottages, Ridge Common Lane, Steep,	No Objection	Refusal
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,	Objection with comments.	Gate house withdrawn, then permission
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,	No Objection	Permission
35044/006	<b>Detached log cabin to side</b>	Rose Cottage, Rockpits Lane, Steep Marsh	Objection	Permission

**Decisions New and Pending**

31482/007	<b>Dwelling and detached garage with associated access and landscaping</b>	The Studio, Hemlock hall, Ashford Lane, Steep	No Objection
27675/005	<b>Change of use of land to riding arena grid ref 756e 265n corner of field to the north of "The Brambles"</b>	1 Steep Marsh Farm Cottages, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh,	Objection
33820/004	<b>Two storey extension to side single storey extension to rear and dormer window to rear</b>	2 Oakhurst Farm Cottages, Mill Lane, Steep	No Objection
5008/001	<b>2 detached dwellings with associated access and landscaping</b>	53 Church Road, Steep	Objection

22818/002	<b>Detached garage following demolition of garage and detached covered swimming pool, gym, plant room and store</b>	Old Farm House, Bell Hill, Steep,	
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Gardeners Farm Appeal – Councillors will be informed of the date of the inspector’s visit.

E-planning – Councillors were pleased with the new way of dealing with planning applications but expressed some disappointment with the lack of internal debate and discussion.

13/08 FINANCE:

Budget and Precept

Councillors had received draft proposals for the budget prior to the meeting. It was proposed the precept remain at £6000 and all agreed.

Nationwide Account stands at £293.81

Co-operative Bank Account stands at £176.46

Alliance and Leicester Account stands at £19,687.86 (including £8k Awards for All grant)

A donation request from Hampshire County Youth Band was declined

14/08 CORRESPONDENCE

A Planning proposal for land adj. Fox Hollow, Ridge Common Lane but Councillors agreed that no comment should be made at this stage.

HAT Questionnaire and Parish Charter – Bridget to respond as appropriate.

The Environment Centre - Energy Advice Team – Bridget to pass details of the energy efficiency scheme to the newsletter for their consideration.

An acknowledgement of Post Office Consultation has been received.

15/08 Next Council Meeting –  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Meeting closed at 10.25pm