

## **STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN** Mr Richard Coles

**CLERK** Mrs Bridget MacMillan

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm at Steep Village Hall

Present: Richard Coles (in the chair) Terry Cook Charles Gibson  
Caroline Robinson Fran Box David Llewellyn  
Jenny Martin Nick Hurst

In Attendance:

Bridget MacMillan (Clerk)

Jenny Gray (District Councillor)

Michael Cartwright (County Councillor)

Paul Thomson (Area Team Leader for HCC Rights of Way)

William Glancy (Sheet Village Association)

There were 13 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

43/08 APOLOGIES

None received

44/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting dated Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May were agreed as an accurate record.

45/08 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR NICK HURST

Nick Hurst was welcomed to the Parish Council and signed his declaration of Acceptance of Office.

46/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded. Councillors were requested to update their Members Interests Forms if any changes from last year.

47/08 PUBLIC COMMENT

William Glancy spoke on behalf of Sheet Village Association to ask the Parish Council to consider forming a joint Steep and Sheet Parish Council. He outlined the concerns of the Sheet residents and answered questions from Councillors.

Questions were asked from members of the public about the timing and content of the proposed questionnaire.

A question was received as to why the allotment site on Ridge Common lane had been dismissed as a possible site for affordable housing.

48/08 COUNTY COUNCIL

Michael informed the Council that Sheet Village association was an active part of the St. Mary's Ward.

He told the meeting that HCC had an additional £1m to spend on road resurfacing and repairs.

He reported that HCC planned to keep Council tax increases to 3% as part of their 3 year plan.

49/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Jenny noted that Adhurst St. Mary was back on the planning agenda. The applicants for Colemore Airstrip had been asked for more evidence of flying. The residents now had 3 weeks to respond.

50/08 THE HANGERS

Paul Thomson was welcomed to the meeting. He introduced himself and his role in regards to The Hangers. He explained that fencing in the Shoulder of Mutton for the grazing of sheep would improve the likelihood of accessing higher level grant funding. He informed the meeting that HCC believed that sheep grazing provided the best bio-diverse, herb-rich landscape in line with their obligations and duties for the land as an SSSI in an AONB. He took questions from the Councillors relating to the funding and effectiveness of this strategy. The timescale for this matter is to talk to the parishes this summer, take it back to the Consultative Committee in October and make the applications this autumn. On a simple show of hands, which the chair invited the public to join, there were 8 people against the fencing and 4 in favour.

51/08 SHEET VILLAGE ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL

Councillors discussed the proposals set out by Sheet Village Association. Councillors expressed empathy with their fears over development spread from Petersfield but questioned the similarities between the two areas.

David proposed that a joint working group was formed to explore the implications of a joint council. This was rejected with one vote in favour.

**It was resolved** that Steep Parish Council would offer moral and informative support to Sheet to form its own council with 5 in favour.

52/08 SHOP/HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

Bedales have written to inform the Council that it does not wish to allow the land on the corner of Church Road and the C18 to be used in conjunction with a housing association to provide accommodation.

Jenny agreed to approach EHDC regarding the Ridge Common Lane site but assured the council that EHDC would have jumped at the site had it been deemed appropriate. David challenged the facts applied to the criteria used for their decision

Councillors discussed whether additional information should accompany the questionnaire

**It was resolved** to send out the questionnaire unchanged following the meeting in September by a vote of 4 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

David requested that it be minuted that he believed the questionnaire should go out with additional background information.

53/08 POSSIBLE BOUNDARY SPLIT

It was reported that several Steep Marsh residents had approached her to ask why the election costing £2300 had been necessary when a replacement Steep Marsh Councillor was needed. It was suggested that Steep Marsh should have two councillors (out of nine) as the area had a third of the population. EHDC are considering the possibility of having two wards within Steep Parish to enable this - as long as residents wished to stand. Caro requested that Councillors consider this matter in September when more detail was available. Councillors agreed.

54/08 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**Common and Hangers:**

The meeting was informed that Froxfield Parish Council had rejected HCC plans to fence the Shoulder of Mutton.

Lutcombe Pond has been identified as the main concern of the Hangers Committee. The dam is broken and HCC are reluctant to do the work they feel necessary.

Broken rails on the Common are in need of repair.

Excellent feedback has been received by many councillors for the play equipment on the Common.

**South Downs National Park:**

Support was requested for Western Weald Day on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July in Petersfield at 10.30am.

**Footpaths:**

Following the HAT team conference on Rights of Way Councillors were asked to identify the two top issues for Steep. Councillors discussed and agreed that footpaths No. 13 (Hayes Cottages) and 20 (Common – Mill Lane) were ongoing issues.

A broken Stile on footpath 26 has been noted.

Councillors were asked to look out for a blue quad bike using bridlepaths in the parish.

It was noted that a new entrance into Mill Meadow had been made. As an entrance from a minor road this was acceptable.

It was noted that Anne Archer who is a tree warden for the parish is moving.

**Roads and Traffic:**

Flytippers were identified between the Common and the tennis courts. The details have been given to EHDC for prosecution. Jenny Gray to look into matter.

Steep Marsh road repairs have been carried out although the drain issues around Cobblers have not been addressed.

Problems with the new contractors have led to delays elsewhere in the parish. Drainage and kerbing is still planned this summer for Church Road. Patching work by the tennis courts is also planned for the same time. Some road closures will be needed.

A census of traffic on Ridge Common Lane has shown that most of the traffic is local and not running all the way through, with relatively low speed and volume shown.

It was requested that the allotment field hedge was cut alongside Church Road.

**Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:**

Councillors agreed to allow the Film Society to fix acoustic tiles to the ceiling having examined the sample provided.

**Decisions Made (14<sup>th</sup> May – July 4<sup>th</sup>)**

36287/006	<b>Relaxation of condition 4 of planning permission 36287/002 to allow continued use of annexe as separate accommodation</b>	1 Collyers Cottages, Ridge Common Lane,	No Objection with comments	Permission
26533/004	<b>Detached double garage</b>	White Cottage, 49 Church Road, Steep	No Objection	Permission
20294/007	<b>Application for consent for Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order: fell one lime tree</b>	Stoner Lodge, Stoner Hill, Steep	No Objection	Refusal
32853/003	<b>Alterations to roof to form rooms in roof space with dormers to front and rear and addition of belfry</b>	The Island Lodge, The Island, Steep	No Objection	Permission

**Decisions New and Pending**

34446/007	<b>Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and car port</b>	Stoner Lodge, Stoner Hill, Steep,	No Objection
50267/001	<b>First floor extension and bay window to side</b>	The Lodge, Bushy Hill, Mill Lane,	No Objection

20100/064	<b>Renovation/repairs to roof and alterations to paved area</b>	Bedales School,	No objection
24988/009	<b>Replacement dwelling</b>	Broadmeadow Stud Farm, Lythe Lane,	Withdrawn
39994/001	<b>Change of use of lane to mixed agricultural and equestrian</b>	Land North of, Little Stodham House, Farnham Road, Liss,	
50326/009	<b>Certificate of lawfulness - continued use of land and nursery and selling of plants</b>	Collyers, Ridge Common Lane, Steep	
30928/022	<b>Alterations and extensions to building to create 69 bedroomed hotel with restaurant, leisure, ceremony and functions suites and 16 dwellings within walled garden; landscape restoration, management plan and new traffic junction</b>	Adhurst St. Mary, London Road, Sheet,	

55/08 Planning Process Policy – Councillors resolved that the updated policy be accepted. They discussed the internal process of each application. It was decided that although much of the work can be done online it was still necessary to gain signatures for evidence of agreement.

56/08 FINANCE

Donation requests for the churchyard maintenance (£187) and newsletter (£270) were granted.

A request from Vitalise was rejected.

Payment to B. MacMillan was made in accordance to the budget. Johnston Newspapers South was to be paid from SWMVC

The bank interest rate at the Alliance and Leicester is changing to a much reduced rate for under £5000. The bank account at the nationwide needs to be closed by 1<sup>st</sup> September or moved to another account by 25<sup>th</sup> July. Alternative arrangements need to be explored.

57/08 CLERK'S POSITION

14 letters of application have been received by the closing date. Councillors agreed to meet this week to consider them.

58/08 Next Council Meeting –

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

(Jenny's apologies noted)

Meeting closed at 10.35pm