

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Bridget MacMillan
01730 261666

Minutes of the Steep Parish Annual Parish Assembly, held on Tuesday 13th May 2008 at Steep Village Hall

Present: Richard Coles (in the Chair) Terry Cook Caro Robinson
Charles Gibson Fran Box David Llewlyn
Jenny Martin Jo Bell

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

5 Members of the Public were present

APM08/01 APOLOGIES
No Apologies

APM08/02 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

APM08/03 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Richard informed the meeting that the Parish Council had had an eventful year with the shop/housing project and the demand for allotments as yet to be sorted. He apologised for the non-delivery of the Parish Questionnaire, explaining the need to get this right and also promised that the village would be consulted. Richard noted the following aspects of the Parish Council work over the year.

Play Equipment - He noted that the play equipment had finally been started and thanked Charles for his work on this project.

Footpaths – Other than the usual maintenance issues there were no major problems reported this year.

The Hangers Committee – continued to be represented by Terry Cook and Philip Mileham.

Roads – Having received many comments regarding the state of Church Road Richard reported that it failed to meet the requirement for resurfacing. He acknowledged the work of David and Caro on this and other road matters.

Village Hall – Another steady year with the finances in a sound position.

Precept – Remains at £6000, believed to be one of the lowest.

Bedales – Mark Taylor, Bursar of Bedales was thanked for the continued monitoring of traffic and travel along Church Road.

Richard thanked Michael Cartwright and Jenny Gray for their attendance and support to the Parish Council.

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Vacancy – Due to his return to the armed forces Philip Mileham has had to resign from the parish council. Richard thanked him for his support and work during his time as a councillor. He noted that an election had been requested and would take place on Thursday 22nd May.

Planning – 40 applications during the year. (7 more than last year)

No Objection from Parish	30	25 Permission 2 Refused 3 Awaiting
Objections by Parish	7	2 Refused 2 Permission 2 withdrawn 1 awaiting
No further comment/action	3	

South Downs National Park – David Llewellyn and Drake Hocking were thanked for their efforts and presentation to the Inquiry into the proposed boundary changes. The decision from which is due at the beginning of next year.

Richard thanked the Parish Councillors and The Clerk for all their support and hard work over the last year.

APM08/04 FINANCE REPORT

Bridget MacMillan reported to the meeting the Parish Council.

The figures as at March 31st 2008 were as follows:

Current Accounts	Portman	£303.89
	Co-Operative Bank	£3205.98
Community Reserve Account	Alliance & Leicester	£18598.26
	Temporary Loan to HCC	£18552.52

Donations

Steep Parish Council made the following donations during the past year:

All Saints Churchyard maintenance	£180.00
Steep and Stroud Newsletter	£385.00
Citizen's Advice Bureau	£200.00
South Downs Campaign	£525.00
Home Start Butser	£120.00
Total	£1410.00

Receipts

The Parish Council received a precept of £6000.00 for the year 2007/2008

The precept has been set for £6000.00 for the year 2008/2009

The Parish Council had received income from its allotments of £220.00

The interest earned on deposit investments and HCC loan was £ 1599.77 (£836.40 2006/7)

Grants

Following grants received through the year:

Edward Thomas Fellowship £375.00

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War Memorials Trust	£685.00
Awards for All	£8000.00
EHDC Grant	£4000.00

APM08/05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Michael noted demand from Social Services and unsatisfactory grant settlements and reported that HCC had their portion of the Council tax by 4.5% and the Fire and Rescue portion was 3.9%.

He informed the meeting of those committees he was involved with:

1. Chairman of Hants. Fire and Rescue Service
2. Chairman of Policy and Resources Select Committee
3. Vice Chair of Pension Fund Panel
4. Regulatory Committee
5. Buildings, Land and Procurement Panel
6. South Downs Joint Committee – which is backing the inclusion of the Western Weald.
7. Chairman of the Ashford Hangers Consultative Committee

He reported that the East Hants HAT (Hampshire Action Team) had been busy and welcomed input from parishes, especially with regard to highway matters, where the local County Councillors had an input into which schemes were prioritised for future action.

He reminded councillors that he held a small budget for funding local community projects.

He thanked the Council for its support.

APM08/06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Jenny Gray thanked the Chairman and Parish Councillors for their support over the year. She informed the meeting that EHDC had frozen their portion of the council tax.

Over the year the District Council had achieved the following:

Bordon/ Whitehill had been awarded Eco-town status.

Roadside glass collection.

Planning Service has been turned around.

EHDC has reached its target for affordable housing in urban areas (but Jenny noted that there remained a desperate need for it in rural areas)

Street sports and cycling initiatives.

Reduced age from 65 to 60 for reduced rates for activities.

Jenny encouraged the Parish to consider developing a Parish Plan to replace the Village Design Statement.

APM08/07 PUBLIC COMMENT

Jenny was asked to expand on the Parish plan and Eco Town initiatives.

Richard Coles thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.40pm