

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 3rd November at 7.30pm at Steep Village Hall

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

In Attendance:
Jenny Hollington (Clerk)
Michael Cartwright (County Councillor)
Jennifer Grey (District Councillor)

There were 20 members of the Public present during the course of the meeting.

73/08 APOLOGIES – None received.

74/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday, 8th September were agreed as an accurate record.

75/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded.

76/08 PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard reminded the public that this is their chance to speak - regulations do not permit questions from the floor during the main part of the meeting. David reminded everyone that it is their right to write in to the Parish Council between meetings, so that individual views are expressed.

Website – Concern was expressed that this is out of date. Nick Hurst explained that Ray's phone line has been out of action. Ray has sent his apologies and hopes that the problem will be remedied shortly. Giles Stoddard reminded everyone to continue to send information for the website to Ray Street.

Steep Village Questionnaire – It was queried whether there would be a chance to debate the results of the questionnaire and what parameters would be used to assess the results. Richard explained that, as yet, no-one knew the results but it was hoped that there would be a clear majority one way or the other.

Information Sheet – Various comments and queries were raised regarding the Background Information Sheet to Village Questionnaire. Richard explained that this document had not been endorsed by the Parish Council and had been sent out anonymously by members of the community who have since come forward and given their names. It was felt that the information in the document was inaccurate in part and not unbiased and so a decision had been made to issue a statement to this effect in the Village Newsletter. It was noted that some people had found the Background Information useful and helpful in filling out the Questionnaire.

Anonymous Letter – An unsigned copy of a letter to a resident of Church Road had been posted through the door of other local residents, complaining about the level of noise at a party held in the road on Thursday evening - this was read to the Parish Council. Concern was expressed that the letter was malicious and spiteful in content. It was agreed that Mark Taylor, Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinator, should follow this up and report back to Richard. A letter on behalf of the Parish Council would be sent to the recipient if appropriate.

77/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Michael said that he had received a copy of the letter from David Llewellyn to Colin Taylor of Hampshire Highways regarding the condition of roads in Steep and would be following this up.

Michael also said that he has a small budget available to spend on local initiatives (details of which had previously been forwarded to the Clerk) of which he currently has £3,000 left. If any Councillors could think of a project which fitted criteria, he would be happy to consider it.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Jennifer reminded everyone of the Community Forum Meeting being held on 4th November at Penns Place where there would be a presentation on the South Downs National Park.

Jennifer expressed concern with regard to the new Planning Regulations which came into effect on 1st October. She said that there is now quite a difference between what was previously allowed and what is now permitted and felt it was important for people to discuss their plans with their Parish Council. It was suggested that a note could be put in the Parish Newsletter regarding this. Jennifer also felt it would be worth asking a Planning Officer from EHDC to a Parish Council Meeting to discuss these changes.

Terry expressed his thanks to Jennifer and also John Venning for help and support with regard to the TPO for the oak tree on the Hangars Way footpath.

78/08 RESULTS OF STEEP VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

Richard introduced John Lancaster, Senior Rural Housing Enabler from Community Action Hampshire, responsible for co-ordinating replies to the Village Questionnaire. His report was circulated and read through slowly.

Of the 448 questionnaires delivered, 186 were returned (42%) – this represented a good response rate. The results were as follows:

What would you like to see happen on the site in Church Road next to the Village Hall?

a)	Affordable housing and a village open space	(75)	39%
b)	Allotments and a village green	(70)	37%
c)	Affordable housing and allotments	(30)	16%
d)	None of the above	(16)	6%

John said that he had been made aware that the Information Sheet had been sent out subsequent to the distribution of the Questionnaire but that there was no statistical evidence that this may have affected the decision-making of the respondents, although it had generated many comments.

He also pointed out that there are 18 Steep connected applicants on the EHDC Joint Housing Register – 8 respondents to the Questionnaire were registered.

The conclusion and recommendation of the report was that **“the majority of respondents favour an option which would include an element of affordable housing. It is recommended that the Parish Council take a vote with a view to advancing this majority view to the next stage – a sketch scheme for Parish public consultation”**.

Richard thanked John for all his hard work and asked Councillors for their comments/questions:

Discussion regarding the background to the current site and alternatives followed - David recommended that the Parish Council should seek to unite the community and felt this could best be achieved by reaching a compromise solution that would release the site for allotments/green space, and by actively seeking an alternative site for housing. Jennifer Grey confirmed that a site in Steep Marsh is currently being considered by Planners - however, there are several planning issues with the site in question, including pylon, drains, tree perseveration on site, condition of roads, position in village, etc. Jennifer pointed out that EHDC are concerned at the lack of affordable housing in this area.

It was proposed by Jenny Martin and seconded by Caro Robinson that the Parish Council should progress the scheme to the next stage - a sketch scheme for public consultation. This was agreed. A sub-committee meeting will therefore take place on Monday, 1st December at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall to agree a design brief for HYDE housing. John confirmed that HYDE Housing will prepare the sketch scheme at risk, so there will be no cost to the Parish Council. Once plans are in place a Public Meeting will be held.

79/08 PROPOSAL FOR INTERIM USE OF THE FIELD NEXT TO THE VILLAGE HALL

The proposal by Giles Stoddard to rent the field next to the Village Hall for educational and recreational use was discussed. It was reported that Giles has liaised with Rachel Goodchild from Jubilee Day Nursery regarding Pre School access, and also with Bedales, regarding sheep grazing. David pointed out that the field was originally designated for recreational use. Concern was expressed over the condition of the field during the winter months – normally the field is rented from April to October.

David proposed that the field should be let to Giles Stoddard, this was seconded by Fran - 2 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstained. It was therefore agreed that this proposal should be re-considered in the spring.

80/08 DRAKE HOCKING - VOLUNTARY TREE WARDEN FOR STEEP

Richard introduced Drake Hocking who has expressed an interest in becoming Tree Warden for Steep. Drake explained that he has spent 28 years in Steep and is happy to volunteer – he has relevant experience through his line of work.

The issue of liability was raised – Drake explained the role was purely advisory. The Tree Warden Scheme is administered by the Tree Council, and Tree Wardens are appointed by Parish Councils/Local Authorities and supported by the District Council. If it was felt there was any risk to the public, Drake would advise the Responsible Officer. Drake said that he would welcome an opportunity to discuss the role further at a later date. It was suggested that a starting point for Drake could be the woodland on the Common. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to EHDC to confirm Drake's appointment.

81/08 UP DATE ON MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PARISH PLAN

Chris Patterson, Community Project Worker from EHDC had been invited to give a presentation at the Village Hall on 23rd October. Jo said that it was unfortunate that the meeting had not been very well attended and gave a brief outline of the presentation. She said that that it was not intended that this should be a Parish Council project, but would be made up of approximately 20 volunteers from all sectors of the Parish and would up-date the Village Design Statement and include issues such as the environment, transport and economy, social and community projects. Grants would be available to support the development of the plan and help and advice would be available from Jo Dixon at Community Action Hampshire. Jo said that she was willing to lead the project and would organise a meeting with Jo Dixon which she would advertise via the web site, newsletter and village notice boards to gain interest.

82/08 OVERHANGING TREES AND HEDGES ON STONER HILL

An e-mail had been received from the Clerk at Froxfield P.C. regarding complaints received about overhanging trees and hedges at the bottom of Stoner Hill just before the turning into Mill Lane. It was agreed that this situation was dangerous but that it would be awkward to cut - David offered to ask Hampshire Highways if they would look into this and advise.

It was also pointed out that the pavement between Dunhurst and the Cricketers is becoming a problem – the sandy bank has come down and it is very narrow causing vehicles to pass very close to pedestrians.

83/08 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Common and Hangers: The annual bonfire is being held on Wednesday, 5th November. Terry said that he has been advised that St. John's Ambulance are no longer legally allowed to cover the event as previously, and he has had to hire a company at greater expense. Nick offered to investigate this as his son is involved with St. John Ambulance and has recently been attending Bonfire parties.

A Hangers' Work Morning is being held on Sunday, 30th November, meeting at Ashford Farm at 10.00 a.m. Terry said that it is going to be increasingly difficult to get further, much needed, work done, especially the pond which needs dredging - the next meeting is not until 11th May. It was suggested that perhaps Michael Cartwright may allocate some of his grant to this type of project – Terry to look into this.

South Downs National Park: Nothing further to report.

Footpaths: Jenny said that she had attended the Paths to Partnership Conference in Alton – this had been very informative. Small grants are available for specific projects to improve access and for map boards, leaflets, etc. The Ramblers Association are able to provide people. It was agreed that a joint Hangers/Footpath Working Party consisting of Jenny, Terry, Jo and Fran would meet to discuss future projects and grant applications.

Roads and Traffic: David has written an excellent letter to Colin Taylor at Hampshire Highways regarding the condition of Steep roads, recommending that all Steep Parish roads be surveyed and a planned maintenance programme be set up. A copy of this letter can be found at the web site.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial: Sound proofing of the large hall is going ahead. Richard and Caroline will speak to Rachel regarding a potential increase in size of the outdoor play area.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate for a wreath to be purchased to place at the War Memorial now that it has been refurbished and tidied.

84/08 UP-DATE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONSDecisions made (4th September – 3rd November)

<u>Planning Number</u>	<u>EHDC Deadline for Comments</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Parish Council Input</u>	<u>EHDC Decision</u>
30871/004	22/08/08	Single storey extension to side	Aldersnapp Bungalow, Lythe Farm Lane, Steep,	No Objection	Permission
31482/008	01/09/08	Dwelling and detached garage with associated access and landscaping	The Studio, Hemlock Hall, Ashford Lane, Steep,	No objection	Permission
32131/001	03/09/08	Single stable block	Land at, Lythe Lane, Steep, Petersfield,	Comments	Permission
20943/003	15.9.08	Two storey extension to side	Church Cottage, 102 Church Road, Steep	No objection with comments	Permission
34446/008	17.9.08	Fell one Lime Tree	Stoner, Lodge, Stoner Hill, Steep	No objection	Consent
31344/004	16.9.08	Change of use of barn to loose boxes for DIY Livery	Coldhayes, Rockpits Lane, Steep Marsh	No objection with comments	Permission
29709/011	30.9.08	Single Storey extension to rear with basement area	Island Holt, The Island, Steep, Petersfield	No objection	Permission
38445	26.9.08	Garden building incorporating carport	Flint Cottage, Ridge Common Lane, Steep	No objection	Permission

Decisions New and Pending

21819/001	15.10.08	First floor extension, conservatory to side and porch to rear	Wyldeewood, Farnham Road, Steep	No objection
23252/001	31.10.08	Removal of existing sunroom and erection of garden room in the same position	Springfield, Mill Lane, Steep	No objection
32520/023	11.11.08	Single storey unit for storage following demolition of temporary structure	The Court Yard, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh	No objection
32520/024	11.11.08	Single storey extension to side	The Court Yard, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh	Objection

85/08 FINANCE

Payments were made in accordance to the budget for salary and training. The election fee will be paid on receipt of a reminder.

A copy of the budget showing the November position was circulated – it was noted that no statement of interest has yet been received from HCC.

Current and Deposit Accounts and Shop/PO money – It was suggested that the Clerk should check the rate of interest through Alliance and Leicester for amounts over £4,000 to see if this was better than the offer from Clydesdale Bank. It was agreed that if not, the Shop/PO money should be invested with Clydesdale and the Alliance and Leicester Deposit Account closed. The Current Account should be left as it is for the present.

86/08 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Letter received from Hugo Brown – This had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Letter received from S. Openshaw, W. Long, G. Stoddard, P.N. Solares, C. Glover and G. Woolston – Jenny commented that she would have liked to have known about this item before the meeting.

Removal of B.T. Phone Box – It was noted that the Consultation period for this had ended in July.

Somewhere to live: Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in S.E. - Caro agreed to fill this in and circulate her replies to all Councillors.

87/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 12th January 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.