

## **STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN** Mr Richard Coles

**CLERK** Mrs Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 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)

There were 7 members of the Public during the course of the meeting.

Richard presented Bridget MacMillan with a gift and flowers and thanked her for her hard work over the past 6 years. He introduced Jenny Hollington as the new Clerk.

59/08 APOLOGIES  
Jenny Martin

60/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING  
The minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July were agreed as an accurate record.

61/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
Richard reminded the Councillors that any interests should be recorded.

62/08 PUBLIC COMMENT  
Ray Street asked whether an up-date had been received from Hampshire Highways regarding the dreadful state of the road surfaces. David replied that he is constantly chasing Hampshire County Council to get the roads rated but that we have just missed the deadline for this year. Complete re-surfacing is now necessary as some areas are becoming very dangerous and simply patching small parts of the road is not satisfactory. It was pointed out that the condition of the roads and verges in Steep Marsh are also very bad due to the recent weather.

Giles Stoddard presented a request to rent the land adjacent to Steep Village Hall in order for it to be used for the educational and recreational benefit of the community, while the long term future is decided. This was discussed briefly - the intention had been for sheep to graze the plot during the winter months as usual. It was later agreed that the Clerk should write to Giles informing him that it had been agreed that the sheep should be allowed to graze the land over the winter.

63/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR  
Michael addressed the issue of roads. He said it was a question of funds which need to be prioritised – currently more money is being spent on mending pot holes. It was pointed out that the roads in Steep Marsh are used by industrial traffic and need to be repaired, the drain issue at Cobblers has not been addressed and this has been going on for years. Michael agreed to follow this up and find out where Steep stands on the repair programme.

Complaints had been received by Councillors regarding the closure of the F18 footpath, a link path to the Hangars Way - Michael said he would check how long this is to be closed for.

64/08 AFFORDABLE HOUSING/SHOP PROJECT AND QUESTIONNAIRE

As previously agreed, the questionnaire had been held over to be distributed to the Parish during September once the holiday period was over. It was agreed to go ahead with the distribution of the questionnaire during the period 18-22<sup>nd</sup> September with Councillors taking responsibility for the following areas of Steep:

Bedales	Fran
Ashford Lane	Charles
The Island, Island Farm Lane	Jo
Hayes Cottages, Church Road North	Jenny
Church Road South	David
Steep Marsh	Caro/Nick
Mill Lane	Terry
Ridge Common Lane	Richard

It was pointed out that the date for replies at the bottom of the questionnaire needed to be updated. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the questionnaire to be reprinted, requesting all replies be received by 13<sup>th</sup> October. She should also ask for a list of postal addresses from EHDC in order to ensure that no household is overlooked. It was also agreed that the questionnaire should be distributed in an envelope to ensure it stayed together with the EHDC freepost reply envelope.

There was some discussion regarding the results of the survey – it was hoped these would be received by the Clerk from EHDC in time for the November meeting and would be discussed then.

David expressed concern that the Questionnaire was not unbiased and was going out without any background information - he asked that these concerns be recorded in the Minutes.

Fran agreed to organise an article in time for the next Newsletter, to remind Parishioners to send back their replies. It was also suggested that posters could be put up in the Village and an advert placed on the website.

65/08 UP-DATE OF VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Terry said that the Village Design Statement had been achieved 7 or 8 years ago and suggested a Parish Plan should now be undertaken in partnership with EHDC. There is approximately £400 left in the kitty from funds for the Village Design Statement which Terry would like to donate to the Parish Council to be used for this purpose. The Parish Plan would be more forward looking than the Design Statement, e.g. how we see the future and could include for example such things as conservation. It was hoped that newcomers and volunteers from the village would want to be involved. Terry said that he had tentatively booked the Village Hall for a public meeting and arranged for Chris Patterson from EHDC to come and give a presentation on this on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. Terry stated that he did not want to lead this project and asked for someone else to take this on. Jo said that she would like to be involved and was willing to lead it. This was unanimously agreed. Terry said that he would put an article in the Newsletter regarding the meeting.

66/08 FUNDS FOR STEEP SHOP/POST OFFICE

There is approximately £4,500 in the Nationwide Building Society made up of donations for the above. This account has to be closed by 18<sup>th</sup> September and a decision made as to what to do with the money. It was pointed out that many of the people who gave the money may no longer be around. It was agreed that the money should be reinvested in a high interest account until a decision is made regarding the future of a village shop and then consultation would be necessary.

67/09 PARISH BOUNDARIES

Caro said that she had had concerns at the possibility of a representative imbalance on the Council and felt that this should be properly formalised. A large amount of money (£2,301.36) had been spent on an election instead of co-opting a Councillor from Steep Marsh. Caro hoped that if either she or Nick resigned it would be possible to co-opt someone from Steep Marsh. Following consultation with Lianne at EHDC however, it has become apparent that making Steep Marsh a separate ward would not necessarily overcome the problem legally, and would also be divisive. Caro therefore recommended that no further action be taken at this time and this was agreed.

68/08 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Common and Hangers:** Terry expressed a huge debt of gratitude to Charles for his hard work and perseverance with the purchase of the new play equipment. Excellent feedback has been received.

The Bonfire Committee have asked for permission for the annual bonfire to go ahead and for insurance cover to be provided - this was agreed.

Paul Thomson has recently left the area and Terry is hopeful that the proposal to fence the Shoulder of Mutton will now be forgotten! He will continue to chase the non-repair of the dam at Lutcombe Pond. He and Fran are to attend a Consultation Event at Queen Elizabeth Country Park on 13th October.

Concern was raised over the condition of some of the trees – many of the young beeches and chestnut trees appear to be dying. Terry said that the chestnut trees have a leaf disease and this situation is not detrimental.

Jo queried whether there had been any resolution to the problem of tipping – David said he has passed on information regarding the gas canisters to the Council and will persevere until this is resolved.

**South Downs National Park:** No further up-date. A decision is due to be made this winter or spring.

**Footpaths:** Complaints have been received about the closure of F18 which connects Mill Lane to Ashford Lane. This is due to construction work at Hemlock Hall and concerns over the safety of footpath users. No alternative route has been suggested. Jo agreed to write to the County Council and complain about the situation, suggesting that the affected area could be roped off.

Fran queried whether there was a Tree Preservation Order on the big oak tree that leans into the footpath and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to H.C.C. regarding this.

No replies had been received in response to the advert in the Newsletter for a Tree Warden – it was suggested that a job description for this role should be investigated as it involves a big responsibility.

**Roads and Traffic:** David has not yet been informed of the start date for the patching work. He is considering drafting a letter to his MP about the state of the roads in Steep. It was commented that some of the damage to the roads is caused by springs and also non-clearing of ditches and farm gateways.

**Steep Village Hall and War Memorial:** Terry reported that the problem of flooding at the War Memorial has been resolved.

Richard reported that the roof has now been stripped of lead and felted. A scrap value of approximately £500 was received for the lead and this has been paid into the bank. There were some reports of disturbances and theft of roof tiles in the neighbouring area.

Following the last meeting of the Trustees when it was agreed that more space/storage was needed, Rachel has organised an hour's free consultation with a local architect at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 18th September, to see whether this would be feasible – anyone interested is welcome to attend. Terry and Richard agreed to look for the original plans as these might be useful.

69/08 UP-DATE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Decisions made (4th July – 4th September)

9994/001	24/07/08	<b>Change of use of land to mixed agricultural and equestrian</b>	Land North of, Little Stodham House, Farnham Road, Liss,	No objection	Permission
50326/009	28/07/08	<b>Certificate of lawfulness – continued use of land and nursery and selling of plants</b>	Collyers, Ridge Common Lane, Steep	No Objection	Permission
27675/006	5/8/08	<b>Construction of 20 x 40m riding arena</b>	1 Steep Marsh Farm Cottages, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh,	Objection	Refused
26744/002	18/08/08	<b>Single storey timber building for provision of welfare office</b>	Land to east of Steep Farm Cottages, Steep Hill	Objection	Permission

30928/022	<b>Alterations and extensions to building to create 69 room hotel with restaurant, leisure, ceremony and function suites and 16 dwellings within walled garden, landscape restoration, management plan and new traffic plan</b>		Adhurst St. Mary London Road, Sheet	Passed with restrictions
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Decisions New and Pending

30871/004	<b>Single storey extension to side</b>	Aldersnapp Bungalow, Lythe Farm Lane, Steep,	No Objection
31482/008	<b>Dwelling and detached garage with associated access and landscaping</b>	The Studio, Hemlock Hall, Ashford Lane, Steep,	No objection
32131/001	<b>Single stable block</b>	Land at, Lythe Lane, Steep, Petersfield,	Comments
20943/003	<b>Two storey extension to side</b>	Church Cottage, 102 Church Road, Steep	
34446/008	<b>Fell one Lime Tree</b>	Stoner, Lodge, Stoner Hill, Steep	
31344/004	<b>Change of use of barn to loose boxes for DIY Livery</b>	Coldhayes, Rockpits Lane, Steep Marsh	
29709/011	<b>Single Storey extension to rear with basement area</b>	Island Holt, The Island, Steep, Petersfield	
38445	<b>Garden building incorporating carport</b>	Flint Cottage, Ridge Common Lane, Steep	

It was noted that the planning application for Adhurst St. Mary has now been passed with restrictions.

Nick queried the timescale for appeal on Steep Marsh Farm Cottages, and will contact the Case Officer involved.

70/08 FINANCE

Payment to B. MacMillan and Information Commissioner's Office was made in accordance with the budget. It was agreed that payment of the election cost of £2,300 should be deferred until November.

71/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FOR THE YEAR AHEAD–

**The next meeting will be held on Monday, 3<sup>RD</sup> November at 7.30 p.m.**

The following dates for 2009 were also agreed (all at 7.30 unless otherwise stated)

- Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January
- Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May – AGM (large hall) – 7.15 p.m
- Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June- Village Hall AGM
- Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July
- Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September
- Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.