

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 6th July 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall

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

In Attendance:

Jenny Hollington (Clerk)
Drake Hocking (Tree Warden)
Christopher Napier (CPRE)

There were 2 members of the Public present during the course of the meeting.

09/29 **APOLOGIES** – Jenny Martin, Jennifer Gray, Vaughan Clarke

09/30 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 12th May 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.

09/31 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Richard reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded.

09/32 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mark Taylor from Bedales reported that Ben Shaw (Head of Design) and the Clerk have now made contact regarding the new notice board for the Village Hall.
- He also asked that the School be kept informed with regard to the impact, if any, of the proposed affordable housing scheme on the School.

09/33 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR COMMENT**

In Vaughan's absence the following was reported:

- A £10,000 pot of money is available for community projects.
- If trials in East Meon are successful, H.C.C. will develop a scheme for a "Road Links Man" to clear drains and liaise with Parish Councils each month.

09/34 **PRESENTATION FROM CPRE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Richard introduced Christopher Napier, Vice Chairperson of Campaign to Protect Rural England, who spoke about the effect of the two proposed wind turbines at East Meon on the South Downs Park.

09/35 **PROPOSALS FOR STEEP COMMON – DRAKE HOCKING**

Drake's report had been circulated with the Agenda. He asked Councillors to consider the Objectives contained within it.

It was unanimously agreed that the objectives and management plan be accepted by the Parish Council, and that Drake take charge of the project and obtain costings. It was pointed out that various grants are available from the District Council, English Woodland Trust, the Tree Council, etc. it would simply be a case of targeting the right source.

A vote of thanks was proposed for Drake for his hard work on this project.

09/36 UP-DATE ON PLANS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The draft plans received from Chris Buchan-Hepburn had been circulated prior to the meeting. Richard said that he had spoken to Chris and that sketch drawings and plans could be ready for the Parish Council to look at by 3rd August. A public exhibition could then be held in September. Concern was expressed however, that **all** Councillors should be present to discuss the plans and that this should be deferred until September.

The plans were then discussed and amendments suggested:

- The houses should be sited further back so that the village green area becomes larger
- House nos. 5 and 6 should be one on top of the other to reduce footprint
- The access road should be further under the canopy of the trees

Following discussion it was agreed that Richard should contact Chris Buchan Hepburn regarding these points.

David said that it was not viable to have both the houses and the open space on the site and that other options should be considered. He also felt that village residents would not wish to use the village green area as it would be seen as belonging to the residents of the new housing. Richard pointed out that the houses would be separated from the green by a path and trees. It would be used by mums collecting children from the Nursery and by the Nursery itself.

David asked for the interim plans to be displayed for the public to view in the interest of transparency and in line with HARA guidelines. He said that people were concerned because they don't know what is going on. In general, however, Councillors felt that it was not appropriate to display plans that have been rejected by the Parish Council. Nick proposed that the plans should be displayed once they have been agreed by the Parish Council and before the Public Meeting. David did not accept this proposal.

After much discussion it was agreed by everyone that:

- Richard should ask Chris Buchan Hepburn to send the revised plans by 25th August.
- A meeting of all Councillors will take place on 1st September to 'tweak' the plans so that the amendments are received back in time for the Parish Council Meeting on 7th September.
- The plans will be displayed on the notice board and website once they are agreed
- A public exhibition in conjunction with Hyde Housing will then be organised (potentially an afternoon/evening in the October half-term)
- This will be followed by an interactive public meeting at a later date.

09/37 UP-DATE ON THE PARISH PLAN

Fran reported that Tony Struthers has volunteered to take over the project from Jo and that she is willing to help him. This proposal was accepted unanimously. Terry said that, so far, there are two volunteers and that Tony is keen to recruit a young person to help with the project.

09/38 UP-KEEP AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Rosemary Lilley from the Edward Thomas Fellowship, contacted the Clerk and volunteered her services as a gardener at the War Memorial which had been looking rather neglected. After discussion with Peter

Coates from Bedales, it was agreed that work on preparing the ground and the planting of perennials and summer bedding by Rosemary should go ahead on this occasion. It is hoped that Rosemary will work with the children from Bedales in the autumn. Two people have volunteered to help keep the plants watered over the summer. The work has now been completed and the War Memorial is now looking much improved!

09/39 PROCEDURE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

David expressed concern that a different interpretation of the Minutes is given in the abridged version in the Village Newsletter. It was agreed that future Newsletter Reports would state that this is a summary of the meeting and that the full Minutes can be viewed on the website or on the village hall notice board.

09/40 VILLAGE HALL NOTICE BOARD

Work on this will start in September. Ben Shaw and the Clerk will meet up over the summer to discuss details.

09/41 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Common and Hangers: Terry has obtained quotes to replace the gates, posts and rails at the entrance to the Common – approximate cost £1,170. Permission was given for him to go ahead with whichever is the cheaper and he is happy with. Consideration was given as to whether the gates should be narrowed to prevent parking but it was agreed that this should be left as it is.

The Safety Report on the Play Equipment had been received and the main points and recommendations were discussed. The main area of concern is the entrance gate and fencing which are now in the process of being renewed. It was agreed that Charles should trim back the holly as recommended in the report. Consideration was given to the banning of dogs, but this was not considered viable. It was agreed that Charles should send a copy of the report to the installation company for their comment as some of the other items raised may be covered by warranty.

Footpaths: No report was available.

Roads: David said that there was nothing further to report on the closing of the lay-by on Stoner Hill – the meeting has not been held yet.

Steep has now been included in the next group of 22 villages for consideration in the Village 30 scheme – money for the scheme is being sought.

The BOAT from Stoner to Froxfield is now finished.

Steep School have requested a pinch point opposite the wicket gate for safety reasons. This has been agreed and will be paid for by the County Council.

South Downs National Park: John Venning submitted an article to the Village Newsletter. It is expected that the National Park will be up and running by 2011.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial: The AGM was held on 15th June. An architect is being sought to discuss/design the proposed extension. One quote has been received so far for re-decoration of the hall, toilets and small hall.

09/42 UP-DATE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Decisions made (May - July 2009)

<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>
34291/012	29.4.09	Single Storey Rear Extension, Conversion of Roof Space to habitable space with two dormers and roof light to front.	Ashford Farm, Ashford Lane, Steep	No Objection	Refusal
50267/002	1.5.09	Change of use of stables to ancillary accommodation, office use and storage	The Lodge, Bushy Hill, Mill Lane, Steep	No Objection	Permission

Decisions New and Pending

51863	16.6.09	Two storey extension to rear, conversion of roof space over garage and detached car port with studio over	The Orchard House, Stoner Hill, Steep	No Objection	
24385/008	17.6.09	Outline – 4 dwellings 2 x 3-bedroomed units and 2 x 2-bedroomed units following demolition of farm buildings	Steep Marsh Farm, Rockpits Lane, Steep Marsh	Objection	
50081/003	15.7.09	Retention of converted roof space to habitable accommodation and roof lights to front and rear	53 Church Road, Steep		
32538/002	16.7.09	First floor rear extension	39 Church Road, Steep		
50081/003	23.7.09	Dormer windows to front elevation, covered way to rear following conversion of roof space to habitable accommodation	Ashford Farm, Ashford Lane, Steep,		
50326/012	28.7.09	Retention of single storey outbuilding for use as garden store/workroom	Collyers, Ridge Common Lane, Steep		
21386/004	28.7.09	Two storey extension to side, conservatory, porch and detached garage	Island Cottage, The Island, Steep		

09/43 FINANCE

The following payments were made in accordance to the budget:

J. Hollington – Salary and Expenses
N. Adams – Play Area Inspection 2009
R. Lilly – Planting and maintenance of the War Memorial.

A subscription to Hampshire Playing Fields was considered and not considered appropriate on this occasion.

A request for support from Victim Support was also considered and not felt appropriate on this occasion.

09/44 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

The following e-mails were discussed:

- EHDC – Public Open Spaces/Recreational Facilities – the Clerk to follow this up.
- Joan Withers – the request for a rubbish bin to be sited at the Memorial Bench was considered – the problem of emptying the bin needs to be resolved. The Clerk will follow this up with Caro and Joan.
- Rural Community Network – Councillors were asked if they wished to receive the weekly digest

09/45 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 7th September 2009

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.