

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Jenny Hollington
01730 267784

Minutes of the Steep Parish Annual Parish Assembly, held on Tuesday 12th May 2009 at Steep Village Hall

PRESENT: Richard Coles (in the Chair)
Fran Box David Llewellyn
Jenny Martin Jo Bell Nick Hurst

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

8 Members of the Public were present

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Charles Gibson, Caro Robinson, Terry Cook and Jennifer Gray

APM09/01 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13th May 2008 were agreed as an accurate record.

APM09/02 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave his report, as follows:

He said that some goals have been achieved during the year but not all -

The play equipment has been installed and many good reports from parents on how much the children are enjoying it have been received. He thanked Charles Gibson for all his hard work on this project.

Steep is now included in the National Park and in recognition of the Parish Council's support of the campaign, a small Oak tree has been presented to commemorate this milestone. Thought will now be given as to a suitable position for it. Richard thanked David Llewellyn and Drake Hocking for representing Steep on the South Downs Park Campaign.

An election was held on 22nd May last year to replace one Councillor and, as a result, Nick Hurst was elected and, as a Steep Marsh resident, is able to strengthen representation from that end of the Parish.

In June 2008 Bridget MacMillan, Parish Clerk, resigned after 5 years in the post – she has been replaced by Jenny Hollington.

Minutes of Steep Parish Assembly 2009

Terry Cook and Fran Box represent Steep on the Hangers' Committee – Richard said he was pleased to hear that H.C.C. has given up on the idea of fencing Ashford Hanger.

David Llewellyn and Caro Robinson continue to battle for improvements to Parish Roads and as a result Church Road has now been resurfaced.

Richard acknowledged Jenny Martin's work on footpaths - there have been no problems throughout the year.

The Village Hall continues to be well used and the installation of the sound proofing has proved very successful.

The precept is to remain at £6,000 for the third year in a row.

Richard reported that the Parish Council had dealt with 33 planning applications, slightly down on last year, but not surprising in the current economic climate. These were broken down as follows:

- 26 No Objection (additional comments were made on 6)
- 6 Objections
- 1 Comment

EHDC gave 28 permission, refused 2 and 3 are still outstanding.

Affordable housing continues to be a concern – Richard said that he would like to think that this project can be moved forward with everyone working together, to produce the type of housing that is sympathetic to the Parish needs.

Richard concluded by thanking Michael Cartwright and Jenny Gray for their continued support and wishing Michael well in his retirement. He also thanked Councillors and Jenny Hollington for their help and support.

APM/09/03 FINANCE REPORT

Jenny Hollington gave a brief overview of the accounts to the meeting as follows:

The figures as at March 31st 2009 are:

Co-Operative Bank (current account)	£ 862.38
H.C.C. (deposit account)	£19,199.06

Donations

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

Churchyard	£187.00
Steep PCC (Newsletter)	£270.00
Citizens Advice Bureau	£300.00

Minutes of Steep Parish Assembly 2009

Receipts

Precept	£6,000.00
Allotments	£ 180.00
Interest (H.C.C.)	£ 643.54

Expenses

The following items were purchased during the financial year:

Play Equipment	£19,436.85
Memorial Bench	£ 625.00

The election fee was £ 2,301.36

APM/09/04 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Michael said that, as many people knew, he will be standing down after 12 years with H.C.C. His involvement with Steep only began 4 years ago, due to boundary changes but he thanked the Chair, the members and the Clerks for their help and support over that time.

He reported that the County Council's tax increase of 1.9% was the lowest for 40 years despite pressure on Adult Social Services and additional spending on road maintenance.

He reminded Councillors that he held a small budget for funding local community projects – Steep being the only one of his Parishes not yet to apply for anything.

He said that the E.H. HAT (Hampshire Action Team) continues to be active and also informed the meeting of the other Committees he has been involved with:

Chairman of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
Chairman of Policy and Resources Select Committee
Vice-Chair of Pension Fund Panel
Regulatory Committee
Buildings, Land and Procurement Panel
South Downs Joint Committee
Chairman of the Ashford Hangers Consultative Committee

He concluded by wishing Steep Parish all the very best for the future.

APM/09/05 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report was available.

APM/09/06 PUBLIC COMMENT

- A question had been received via e-mail asking when an interactive Public Meeting involving representatives from EHDC and Hyde, would be held, to inform and discuss with the village the plans for Affordable Housing – Richard confirmed that once the plans were received, a meeting would be arranged.

Minutes of Steep Parish Assembly 2009

- Richard said that he would up-date the meeting further on progress with the plans under Agenda Item 09/21 of the AGM.

There being no further comment, Richard Coles thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.50 p.m.