

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Mrs. Caroline Robinson

**CLERK:** Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

|                   |               |                |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Caroline Robinson | Fran Box      | Charles Gibson |
| Nick Hurst        | Richard Coles | Jo Bell        |
| Terry Cook        |               |                |

In Attendance: Vaughan Clarke (County Councillor)  
Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

There were 5 members of the Public present.

APOLOGIES: David Llewellyn, Jenny Martin and Jennifer Gray

10/157 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – The Minutes of meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October were agreed as accurate records and signed accordingly.

10/158 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

10/159 PUBLIC COMMENT

- Concern was expressed regarding correspondence received from BJC by residents of Church Road, regarding proposals for affordable housing on land adjacent to Hayes Cottages. In particular, the proposed access from Mill Lane would cause further traffic problems in Church Road.
- Mrs. Jane Mills introduced herself as a new resident in the Parish, who was attending the meeting to assist with any queries regarding her revised planning application for 1 Steep Marsh Farm Cottages.

10/160 COUNTY COUNCILLOR COMMENT

Vaughan spoke about the Government Spending Review. He said that it was feared that the financial load would be spread evenly over the Country, meaning that small Council's would suffer proportionally far more than larger Councils. He said that it was necessary for H.C.C. to make savings of £148M over 4 years and reduce staff by 460. The Councillor Devolved Budget would be reduced from £10,000.00 to £5,000.00.

In response to last year's salt shortage, it has been agreed that this year salt will be imported from Egypt as well as Cheshire. The Egyptian salt will be transported via Southampton meaning that it cannot be diverted to other Counties. Seven new trucks have also been purchased.

10/161 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMENT

A short report from Jennifer Gray had been received by the Clerk. This was read to the meeting and included the following points:

- The Localisation Bill is expected later this month;
- Hampshire has been accepted as part of the Solent Group as far as Local Enterprise Partnerships are concerned;
- After David Parkinson's resignation as Leader, Patrick Burridge has been voted in and Jennifer has taken over from him as the EHDC member representative on the South Downs National Park;

- Council cuts (from the Government Spending Review) are 26%;
- Good progress is being made on the programme to share management and services with Havant Borough Council.

10/162 OPTIONS FOR COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRANT

The £1000 County Councillor Grant has been received and paid into the Parish Council Account. Vaughan Clarke has confirmed that he would be happy for the grant to be spent on another project in Steep (as it is now realised that it cannot be used in conjunction with the Small Grants Award for Footpath 20). Jenny Martin has requested £500 as a contribution towards materials necessary for the Hanger's Volunteer Day – this was agreed. Fran Box requested £500 towards the cost of moving and refurbishing the B.T Phone Box and, again, all agreed.

10/163 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM BJC

The letter and attached plan showing proposals for providing 23 Affordable Housing Units on land adjacent to Hayes Cottages was discussed. Councillors expressed their concerns regarding the proposed access on to Mill Lane and the resulting increase in traffic in Church Road. The concerns of residents in Hayes Cottages were also noted. . It was pointed out that no formal planning application has yet been made to EHDC and that the Parish Council are unable to comment formally at this stage. The current need and the Parish Council's duty to provide Affordable Housing were also taken into account. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to BJC (copied to EHDC) setting out these points.

10/164 TRAFFIC ISSUES IN CHURCH ROAD AND BEDALES' INPUT

Concern had been raised over the increase in traffic in Church Road, as well as the speed of some of the minibuses and the parking of white vans on the pavement outside the Bursar's house. In the past the Parish Council has enjoyed a good relationship with the School and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the new Bursar outlining concerns and ask for an up-date of the School's Travel Plan. An invitation to attend the Parish Council Meetings could also be extended.

The new pinch point outside Steep School, although beneficial for pedestrians, has made the traffic situation worse at dropping off and picking up time. However, it was agreed that there is nothing that can be done to ease this situation.

10/165 P.C. SPECIFIC E-MAILS

Nick Hurst expressed concern that the Parish Council had so far ignored advice received regarding the separation of personal and Parish Council e-mails. Following discussion it was agreed that he and Ray Street would get in touch with each member of the Parish Council and organise a time to set up individual .gov.uk e-mail addresses for those who wish to convert.

10/166 HIGH SPEED BROADBAND CONNECTION

An on-line marketing campaign for high speed broadband connection is being run by B.T. which involves voting for a service based on fibre optic cables to be provided to the exchange. It was agreed that this campaign should be publicised as much as possible in order to get people to register their vote. Nick Hurst said that he would contact Ray Street and ask him to advertise the campaign on the website. Nick would also e-mail the link to Parish Councillors to forward on to their contacts, to encourage participation.

10/167 TO ADOPT MANDATORY STANDING ORDERS

The Mandatory Standing Orders drawn up by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting were agreed and adopted by Steep Parish Council.

10/168 UP-DATE ON LAND REGISTRATION

The Clerk is still waiting to hear back from the Land Registry Office.

10/169 UP-DATE ON THE PARISH PLAN

An Exhibition is to be held on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Village Hall from 10.00-3.00 p.m. Terry encouraged Parish Councillors to show their support on the day.

A request for £1,000 towards the cost of the Parish Plan will be considered by the Parish Council at the December meeting. The Clerk said that £592.68 was given to the Parish Council on conclusion of the Village Design Statement.

10/170 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Commons and Hangers** – Terry and Fran attended the annual Hangers Meeting. A Volunteer Work Day has been organised for Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00-12.00. There will be a Hangers Walk on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 for Parish Councillors - Fran and Terry had attended this last time and it had been fascinating.

Terry formally requested permission to hold the Bonfire eventing on the Common on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November – all agreed.

**Footpaths** – The work on Footpath 20 has been completed and the invoice received by the Clerk. She has written to Justin Harvey requesting the Small Grant contribution of 50% towards the costs.

**Roads and Traffic** – Work has now started on Pratts Lane in Steep Marsh.

**Steep Village Hall and War Memorial** – The War Memorial is looking very nice in time for Remembrance Sunday. A Village Hall Management Committee Meeting will be held within the next few days to discuss cleaning issues. Rachel Goodchild has confirmed that she intends to stay on at the Village Hall.

10/171 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Chairman declared an interest in Planning Applications 27675/011 and 27675/012 as she is a neighbour. Mrs. Mills said that the revised planning application for the new Stable/Sheep facility block provides a lot more detail and addresses issues raised by members of the public at the last meeting. She answered questions from Parish Councillors with regard to the application.

Parish Councillors all declared an interest in Planning Application 32914 as they are Trustees of the Village Hall. It was agreed that this should be noted in the response to EHDC. It was also agreed that the Clerk should write to Ken Claxton to thank him for his help in drawing up the plans.

|           |   |  |                           |
|-----------|---|--|---------------------------|
| 30928/026 | <b>Alterations and extensions to building to create 69 bedroomed hotel with restaurant, leisure, ceremony and functions suites and 16 dwellings within walled garden; landscape restoration management plan and new traffic junction – variation of condition 28(ii) of 30928/022 to refer to a hotel with a minimum of 22 bedrooms</b> | Adhurst St. Mary, London Road, Sheet, Petersfield GU31 5AD SDNP      | Objection                 |
| 33825/004 | <b>Renewal of extant planning permission – two storey extension to side, first floor extension to rear with balcony, conservatory to side, detached double garage with cellar following demolition of orangery</b>  | Oakhurst, Mill Lane, Steep GU32 2DH SDNP                             | No Objection              |
| 27675/011 | <b>Two storey extension to side, single storey and first floor extension to rear following removal of existing garage and rear single storey area</b>   | 1 Steep Marsh Farm Cottages, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh, GU32 2BL SDNP | No Objection              |
| 27675/012 | <b>New stable/sheep facility block with new access track following demolition of existing stable block</b>  | 1 Steep Marsh Farm Cottages, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh, GU32 2BL SDNP | No Objection with comment |
| 32914     | <b>Single Storey Extension to front and repositioning of telephone box to be used as information kiosk</b>  | Steep Village Hall, 28 Church Road, Steep GU32 2DN SDNP              | No Objection with Comment |

10/172 FINANCE

Figures showing the November position against the budget were circulated and discussed.

The Clerk said that the Audit is now complete and notice of completion in place. It was noted that the External Auditor has asked that the situation regarding income from the allotment land be clarified before the next audit.

Payments were made in accordance to the budget – Audit Commission, Jenny Hollington, Paul Marston. The payment to Paul Marston was approved but payment will be delayed until the 50% match funding is received from H.C.C.

10/173 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – No specific issues were raised.

10/174 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.