

**DRAFT**

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN:** Jim MacDonald

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of an on-line Parish Council Teams Meeting held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair)  
Terry Cook Peter Cruttenden Chris Laycock  
Jeff Graham Nick Hurst Jenny Martin

**In Attendance:** Russell Oppenheimer, County Councillor  
Nick Drew, District Councillor  
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 4 members of the public present at the meeting.

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
20/122	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Kate Ashfield.	
20/123	<u>MINUTES</u> – Two amendments to the September Minutes were required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minute 20/117 (a) – the amount of S.106 Monies received towards village gates was <b>£4254</b></li><li>• Minute 20/117 (g) – Hill Head should read <b>Hillbrow</b>.</li></ul>	
	Once these amendments had been made, the Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.	
20/124	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare an interest in any matter on the Agenda –none declared.	
20/125	<u>VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR</u> – The closing date for expressions of interest is Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> October. Applicants have been asked to write a couple of paragraphs introducing themselves, explaining why they would like to be a parish councillor and what they can bring to the role. Co-option will take place at the P.C. meeting on Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> November.	
20/126	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobile Coffee Shop -A member of the public asked what had been decided about the proposal for a mobile coffee shop in Steep? The Chairman explained that this has been passed to the Village Hall Trustees for consideration and they will discuss the idea in more detail and take it forward with the owner of the mobile van.</li><li>• Bonfires in the Ashford Hangers – A member of the public reported that there have been at least 2 bonfires (one was in the vicinity of the Poet Stone) as well as evidence of camping and litter seen in the Ashford Hangers recently. This item was discussed further under correspondence later on the agenda (see below).</li><li>• Old A3 – Creation of a Footpath and Cycle Lane – A resident from Hillbrow attended the meeting to seek support for his proposal to create a safer and greener route from Sheet to Hillbrow by making the road single carriageway as opposed to dual carriageway (as discussed at the September P.C. meeting). The Chairman explained that Steep P.C. felt that although this was a very interesting and exciting proposal, HCC would see this as low priority in view of overstretched budgets due to coronavirus. The resident was invited to</li></ul>	

- follow the proposal up via Cllr. Oppenheimer
- Letter to SDNPA – The Chairman confirmed that SDNPA have forwarded the letter raising concerns about the planning application for land S.E. of Gardners Farm to the Head of Planning at EHDC as their officer had dealt with the application. No response has yet been received from them.
- Brickyards – The Clerk has not yet written to the owner of the Brickyards raising residents' concerns about out of hours use. No response has yet been received from EHDC to Cllr. Hurst's e-mail on this subject. Clerk
- Gravel path alongside the A3 at Tankerdale Lane – It was queried whose responsibility it was to maintain the path which runs alongside the A3 as currently it is very overgrown and impossible to access safely? Cllr. Martin said she would follow this up with HCC. JM

20/127 LAND AT CHURCH ROAD – Over 100 consultation responses have been received, in various formats and containing varying levels of detail - these have now been scanned, listed and need to be organised into a report. It was agreed that a small working party should be formed, to include one or two village residents to ensure independent views. A couple of residents have already indicated their willingness to assist and these offers of help will be followed up asap and a meeting arranged. Cllr. Cook asked that the Parish Council's thanks be recorded to Cllr. Graham who has put a lot of work into collating all the responses.

It was noted that the consultation working party above is in addition to the small working party, already formed to lead on community engagement/land at Church Road. Recently, the Parish Council has been offered additional support by Clare Moriarty (the wife of the Chairman). Clare has a wide range of skills and knowledge and, for a short time, a little time to spare. Councillors were delighted to accept Clare Moriarty's offer of help and to welcome her to the working party.

20/128 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Oppenheimer's report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The following items were highlighted:

- The New Covid App – Cllr. Oppenheimer urged everyone to download the new app – it was noted that the app would not work on old phones!
- HCC Climate Change Action Plan – The plan provides clarity for residents on how the County Council will make Hampshire more resilient to the impact of climate change and meet carbon reduction targets
- HCC Finance – Latest prediction put extra costs and losses at around £160 million this financial year due to coronavirus. There has been some additional Government funding in the form of grant and reimbursement of lost income but at least £52 million will be required from Government over the next 3 years.
- Back to School – Attendance is exceptionally good and above the national average.

Cllr. Cook queried HCC Policy on Ash Die-Back as the current policy in the Hangers seems to be to allow the Ash to fall? Cllr. Oppenheimer said he would follow this up with the Rangers and report back.

Cllr. Oppenheimer's full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the newsletter and P.C. website.

20/129 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. Drew highlighted the following items of particular interest to Steep residents:

- EHDC can assist Steep P.C. with highlighting the issues raised of camping and bonfires in the Ashford Hangers via their regular communications which are sent out to a wide audience – the Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr. Drew to arrange. Clerk

- Cllr. Drew will chase EHDC responses to the two outstanding planning issues (Brickyards and Land S.E. of Gardners Farm).
- Motorcycle noise – Cllr. Drew reported on the Zoom Meeting chaired recently by Damien Hinds to discuss this issue which also affects many other parishes across East Hants – the meeting had been well attended and Damien Hinds has offered to support where he can. Cllr. Drew will circulate Minutes from the meeting in due course.

20/130 FINANCE

- (a) Actual to budget figures (April to September) – A breakdown of the current financial position had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Spend is currently more or less in line with projected costs, as is income.
- (b) S.106 monies – There is currently £6,433 Open Space funding being held for the parish at EHDC who have confirmed that in recognition of the financial pressure many small councils are facing due to Ash die-back, they will consider allocating the funds to this work. It was agreed that the Clerk should apply asap. Clerk
- (c) Bank Reconciliation – The September bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved
- (d) Cheques – The following cheques for October payment were approved:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100353	£275.00	Bill Robinson	Lengthsman work - September
100354	£20.93	Mr & Mrs. T. Knights	Refund - plants for War Memorial
100355	£1.67	HMRC	Tax & NI, Employer Contributions - Clerk
100356	£737.53	Jenny Hollington	Clerk
	£1,035.13		

20/131 LUTCOMBE POND – Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that HCC are still willing to fund the work to repair the leak at Lutcombe Pond – however, the project has been delayed by 1-year due to the pandemic (repairs need to be carried out in the summer months when water levels are at their lowest). Two quotes have now been received and a third is still required. The Parish Council will follow up with two local contractors to see if they are interested. Cllr. Oppenheimer was thanked for his support and help.

20/132 STEEP COMMON

- (a) Ash Die-back – Details of the tree work required due to Ash die-back had been circulated prior to the meeting. At the last meeting, it had been agreed that the priority tree work (i.e. affected trees close to the School boundary, Church Road, and the Hangers Way Footpath) should be carried out during October (20 trees). The question of what to do with the Ash once it has been felled was discussed and it was agreed to accept the offer of £100 for the logs from a Steep resident who would be able to ensure that there was no damage caused to the Common in extracting the logs. Cllr. Graham will liaise with the School about timing of the work which it is hoped will be carried out over half term, and with the contractor about the risk assessment for the work. JG

If S.106 funding can be secured towards the tree work, it was agreed that the full scope of work required (felling of 32 affected trees in total) should be carried out. Cllr. Graham confirmed that other species of trees will be planted to increase biodiversity and to lessen the

impact of the work as per the recommendations contained in Bob Epsom’s report (SDNPA Woodland Manager).

- (b) Dog and Waste Bin issues – The correspondence about the overflowing dog bin and lack of general waste bin was discussed but it was thought that this would not be an issue during the winter months and should be followed up in the Spring/Summer.

20/131 PLANNING/ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- (a) Land S.E. of Gardner’s Farm – SDNPA have referred the matter back to EHDC.
- (b) Brickyards – Cllr. Hurst in his capacity of Chairman of the Planning Committee has written to EHDC on this issue but a response has not yet been received – (the Officer concerned has been on annual leave).
- (c) SDNPA Draft Parking Supplementary Planning Document Consultation – Cllrs. Hurst and Laycock were asked to consider the documentation and respond to the consultation on behalf of Steep P.C.

NH/CL

20/132 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Phase 2 Traffic Management Scheme – Following the receipt of S.106 monies in the sum of £4254.00 towards Village Gates, Cllr. Laycock has investigated the forthcoming SDNPA standardised design to be used across the Park– however, SDNPA have not yet approved a final design. Details will be circulated when available.
- (b) Motorcycle Noise – Cllr. Laycock attended the Zoom meeting with Damien Hinds on behalf of Steep P.C. There has been progress in enforcing motorbike noise via acoustic cameras and signage in some areas, but Hampshire County Council don’t have the necessary specialist equipment. This issue is also being looked at in detail by HALC (as the problem affects many rural parishes across Hampshire). There will be more meetings on this issue to come.

20/133 FOOTPATHS –

- Damaged stile – Cllr. Martin will follow up on a report of a damaged stile and the inaccessible gravel path alongside the A3 in Steep Marsh (F/P 29). JM
- Reports of motorbikes on Whetham Hill in the Hangers will be notified to the Hampshire rangers JM
- The Clerk was asked to chase HCC RoW about the condition of the Hangers Way at the bottom of the Common as it crosses the fields - the membrane has been exposed and needs to be covered with new scalplings before it gets damaged. Clerk
- The trees which have been felled just above The Butts/Jacks Meadow have been left across the footpath and need to be cleared – this will be followed up via the Hampshire Rangers. JM
- Tree down on F/P 10 in Ridge Hanger – the Chairman will advise the Rangers. Chair

20/134 CORRESPONDENCE

- Church Road – The letter from a parish resident expressing concerns re the sale of land in Church Road was discussed. Some of the issues raised will need to be referred to Steep in Need but the other items will be responded to by the Church Road working party and a

response sent as soon as possible. If there are additional questions to those already on the website following the community up-date meeting, the responses will be added.

- The Cricketers' Pub – The Parish Council were extremely pleased to hear that new landlords have been found and look forward to seeing the pub being re-opened in due course.
- Bonfires in the Ashford Hangers – Concerns were expressed about the report of bonfires being lit in such a sensitive and beautiful area – Steep P.C. will take up Cllr. Drew's suggestion to utilise EHDC's communication system to highlight the issue and Cllr. Ashfield will also be asked to raise this via Petersfield Pulse and Facebook

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20/135 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. Details to follow

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.