

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of an on-line Parish Council Teams Meeting held on Monday, 11th January 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair)
Terry Cook Peter Cruttenden Jeff Graham
Jenny Martin Jonathan Turk

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

There was 1 member of the public present at the meeting.

Minute	Item	Action
21/01	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Ashfield, Hurst and Laycock	
21/02	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the on-line Teams Meeting held on Monday 7 th December 2020 were approved – the Clerk was asked to sign them due to current Government restrictions.	
21/03	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare an interest in any matter on the Agenda –none declared.	
21/04	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> - None	
21/05	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile Coffee Cart – The Chairman reported the Village Hall Management Committee’s decision to extend the temporary contract for Alma’s “Conserveatory” on a rolling 1-month basis during lockdown. The contract will be reviewed when the hall re-opens for business.• Church Road parking – The issue of contractor vehicles being parked on the pavement outside the headmaster’s house has continued despite assurance from the Bursar that he would speak to the contractor. The Chairman will write to the Bursar again and attach photos showing the dangerous parking and the damage being done to the pavement.	
21/06	<u>LAND AT CHURCH ROAD</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Village Communication – The Chairman confirmed he has responded to a letter requesting his attendance at a roundtable meeting of village representatives to discuss the sale of land at Church Road. Although he declined the invitation, he has offered to meet individually with those residents copied into the letter.(b) Meeting with SDNPA representatives – The joint meeting between Steep Parish Council, Steep Village Hall, Steep in Need and SDNPA Planning Policy representatives had been useful to help understand the site allocation and how it would be interpreted if there were to be any changes. SDNPA reps explained that the allocation policy reference to a proportion of the site being provided as open space takes precedence over the specific figure of 20% stated. From their perspective, a coherent landscape-led design is the key priority.	Chair
21/07	<u>OPEN SPACE WORKING PARTY</u> – Clare Moriarty, Chair of the Working Party, said the group had a successful first meeting. The analysis of the Open Space consultation responses has been	

shared between group members and they will now look at how best to translate the responses into designs. Whilst it is not for the Working Party to make decisions, proposals will be brought to the Parish Council for on-going discussion and/or consultation. The summary of responses will be reported in the next newsletter and the information is also available via the P.C. website (www.steep-pc.gov.uk). The Working Party will meet again on 14th January.

21/08 FINANCE -

- (a) Interim Internal Audit – It was noted that the interim internal audit will be carried out remotely on 21st January due to the national lockdown.
- (b) Bank Reconciliation – The bank reconciliation for December had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.
- (c) Cheques – Cheques for January payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100371	£1.67	HMRC	Tax and N.i. + Emp Contribution
100372	£737.53	J. Hollington	Clerk
	£739.20		

21/09 LUTCOMBE POND – Cllr. Oppenheimer offered to chase Five Rivers representatives about the possibility of a site meeting to discuss options for repairing the leak. There is now a degree of urgency to obtaining a third quote, to ensure that the project doesn't slip another year.

21/10 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Oppenheimer reported on the following items:

- Covid-19 Testing – Anyone with a high temperature or a cough can order a coronavirus testing-kit via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. It is, of course, also very important that residents self-isolate if they have symptoms.
- Hitting the Cold Spots – Now more than ever it is important that residents stay warm in their own homes and HCC has an initiative to help anyone who is struggling financially or needs support with temporary heating measures. For help and advice call 0800 804 8601 lines are open 9.00-5.00 weekdays.

21/11 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. Drew highlighted the following items:

- Business Grants – Various grants are available to help small businesses survive the pandemic and full details can be found on the EHDC website www.easthants.gov.uk
- Brickyards – Steep Marsh residents' concerns over the unsatisfactory response from EHDC in respect of compliance issues are being addressed via Cllr. Drew/Enforcement.
- Landscape Officer – The EHDC Landscape Officer has indicated that he is willing to attend a Planning Committee meeting to address concerns raised by the Planning Committee about recent applications but that he would be unable to comment on individual cases. Cllr. Drew will follow up and confirm a date asap.
- Travellers – Cllr. Drew highlighted a Froxfield issue whereby a piece of land within the parish has been bought by travellers and this is causing concern for residents.

21/12 STEEP COMMON

S.106 Monies – EHDC is currently carrying out an audit of S.106 monies and consequently this will delay their response to Steep Parish Council's application for use of the monies towards Phase

2 Tree Management on the Common. In the meantime, Cllr. Graham has spoken with an adjoining landowner who is currently re-planting his land and feels there may be an opportunity to work together in the future.

Storm Damage – Cllr. Graham reported that an Oak which came down on the Common over the Christmas period had quickly been made safe by Alex Stickley who had been on hand and did a great job. It was also noted that there are several trees down around the parish - those on footpaths in the Hangers have been reported to the HCC Rangers. Chris Budd has also cleared a tree which had fallen on the Coach Road and was obstructing the BOAT.

Christmas Tree planting – A request to allow the re-planting of Christmas trees within the enclosure on Steep Common has been declined as it would be inappropriate to plant non-native species on the Common.

21/13

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

Steep Hollow – Correspondence setting out concerns about inadequate signage, inappropriate parking, and speed of vehicles at the top of Steep Hollow had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. It was agreed that, in the absence of Cllr. Laycock, a small working party consisting of Cllrs. MacDonald, Turk and Graham, would meet to look at the issues in more detail prior to engagement with Hampshire Highways.

Chair/
JG/JT

Steep Marsh Flood – The on-going problem of the flooded road outside Elmwood was discussed. Clearance of the culvert needs to be carried out annually by HCC road engineers and until this is done properly, this will be a recurring problem. It was noted that there is a similar problem in Mill Lane where it is important that drains and culverts are kept clear. It was agreed that these issues should also be brought to Highways attention as a matter of urgency - the support of the County Councillor will be sought (Cllr. Oppenheimer had left the meeting prior to this discussion).

JT

Accident on Stoner Hill – Correspondence received about another serious accident on Stoner Hill which had resulted in closure of the road, was noted. Luckily, no-one had been seriously injured on this occasion.

21/14

FOOTPATHS –

Damage to Stile on F/P 20 – Cllr. Cook noted that whilst it is wonderful to see so many people walking the footpaths around the parish, the footpath network is taking a considerable battering. A stile which had only recently been repaired by the landowner has since been damaged once again (and, unfortunately, the position of the stile, makes it impossible for a kissing gate to be installed instead). It was queried whether support for footpath maintenance could be sought via SDNPA? It was agreed that before approaching SDNPA, a review of the parish footpath network should be carried via a Recreation Group Working Party and that recruits for the Working Party should be sought via the next edition of the Parish Newsletter.

JM

BOAT 31 and F/P 3 Lythe Hanger – Cllr. Martin reported that Chris Budd has cleared the drainage gullies on the BOAT on this occasion – the Clerk was asked to ensure that the Lengthsman carries out this role more regularly during the winter months. It was also noted that motorbikes are causing damage to F/P 3 through Lythe Hanger and that staggered rails at the bottom of the path are needed to prevent this from recurring – the Clerk was asked to write to the landowner about this issue.

Clerk

Clerk

21/15

COMMUNITY PROJECT – PLAY EQUIPMENT AT HAYES COTTAGES

Cllr Graham reported that an informal swing on the green area at Hayes Cottages had been cut down by EHDC due to health and safety requirements and he had been approached by residents about the possibility of a proper swing replacement. Initial investigation shows that the land is owned by EHDC and therefore appropriate permissions would need to be sought, as well as liaison with residents of Hayes Cottages. A very approximate cost of installation has been sought (£6,000) but grants may be available (Radian, Cllr. Drew?). It was agreed that Cllr. Graham should pursue this item further and provide further feedback at the February meeting.

JG

21/16 FLOODING AT THE WAR MEMORIAL – At the last meeting it had been brought to the Council’s attention that the War Memorial is flooding during periods of heavy rainfall. The Clerk reported that she had met with the Lengthsman to see if there was an easy fix, but it appears quite complex because the cobbled area to the front of the War Memorial has become very uneven and sunken over the years. Simply raising the front edge to prevent water access would create a trip hazard. It was agreed to seek further insight into resolution of the issue via Chris Budd. Cllrs. Martin and Graham will follow up.

JM/JG

21/17 CORRESPONDENCE

Subject Access Request – Receipt of a S.A.R. on 22nd December was noted - it was agreed that legal advice should be sought to enable to the Parish Council to respond appropriately.

Clerk

21/18 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 1st February 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

4 JANUARY 2021

As we start 2021, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all Parish Councillors for your service to the community during this pandemic. It has not been an easy period for anyone yet despite the pressures you have all kept going impressively. The work you do on behalf of residents is greatly appreciated. We are not out of the woods yet but the end is in sight...we will beat this together!

1. Making sure people know how to get tested

To help contain infection rates locally, we need to ensure that people know how to get tested. I would ask Parish Councils to consider reinforcing this message through their communication channels. The simple message is that anyone with a high temperature or a cough should get themselves tested. Anyone with symptoms can order a test at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Of course, anyone with symptoms must also self-isolate too. I think that this is more widely understood than the requirement to get a test.

2. Concerns over return to school

With Hampshire currently in Tier 4, I would like to acknowledge the local concerns amongst parents and teachers about the return to school of primary school children today.

Hampshire's early years providers and county-wide family of schools are continuing to work hard to keep Hampshire's pupils, teachers and school staff safe by implementing appropriate measures to help prevent the spread of infections when they are in school. We are extremely grateful for all the work that is being undertaken, and I am aware that many staff have worked over the Christmas period to ensure that schools adhere to the latest national guidance. I hope that parents will be reassured by this phenomenal effort.

We will face similar concerns when secondary school pupils are due to return. These are not easy decisions for the Government. I believe that the physical and mental wellbeing of children is best served by keeping schools open wherever possible. I have full confidence that parents and teachers will continue to work towards enabling pupils to return to the classroom as soon as possible.

3. Hitting the Cold Spots

It looks like the current cold snap is set to continue for at least the next fortnight. Now more than ever, it is important that everyone stays warm in their own homes so that they do not become more vulnerable to Covid. Hampshire County Council has an initiative to help people who are struggling to stay warm. The initiative is called “Hitting the Cold Spots”. Any resident in Hampshire can call for support and advice on this number:

0800 804 8601

Lines are open 9-5 on weekdays. Services include:

- home visits from our Advisors offering advice and practical support;
- support with temporary heating measures if you are without heating;
- assistance to switch your energy provider or tariff to help you save money on your fuel bills;
- eligibility check for the Warm Home Discount and local energy efficiency schemes;
- help to access to funding, where available, for boiler repairs and replacements. Delivered through trusted 'Buy With Confidence' contractors;
- signposting and referrals to other organisations, such as: benefits and debt advice and safe and well visits by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service;

I would be very grateful if Parish Councils could advise local charities and groups about this worthwhile initiative please. Stay safe and stay warm!

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers