

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Steep Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 5th July 2021
at Steep Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Terry Cook Freddie Holmes
Jenny Martin Jonathan Turk

In Attendance: Nick Drew, District Councillor
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 2 members of the public present at the meeting.

| Minute | Item | Action |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| 21/118 | <u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Jeff Graham and Nick Hurst, and County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer | |
| 21/119 | <u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the AGM held on 7 th June 2021 were approved and signed. | |
| 21/120 | <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest in any matter on the Agenda. He also reminded Councillors that the Parish Council is Sole Managing Trustee of the Village Hall and of the possible conflict of loyalties between the two roles. | |
| 21/121 | <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new resident of the parish introduced herself and offered to advise the Parish Council on data protection, an area in which she specialises – this offer was much appreciated, and gratefully accepted.• A resident said she had wanted to comment on a planning application which was due to be discussed at the Planning Committee Meeting immediately prior to the P.C. Meeting, but which unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last minute. The Chairman confirmed that the meeting would be re-arranged, and the resident advised of the new date. | |
| 21/122 | <u>BY-ELECTION FOR 2-PARISH COUNCILLORS</u> – There are three candidates standing for election for two vacancies, on 15 th July – Michael Benson-Colpi, Charlotte Duthie and Andrew Martin. Each candidate has now produced a leaflet to give residents an idea of their background and reason for standing for election which can be found on the noticeboard outside the Village Hall. | |
| 21/123 | <u>EHDC CODE OF CONDUCT</u> – Following comments made at the June Steep Parish Council Meeting, the EHDC Legal Department has produced a 1-page summary of the 14-page document previously circulated. Following discussion, Councillors agreed that provided the 1-page summary is attached to the full 14-page document, they were happy to adopt the revised EHDC Code of Conduct. | |
| 21/124 | <u>DATA AND PRIVACY POLICY</u> – A resident had written to the Parish Council concerned about a breach of data privacy. The Chairman confirmed that the data breach would be investigated and that he would liaise with the Clerk to consider whether the breach should be reported to the Information Commissioner. In the meantime, the policy will be reviewed, and appropriate training undertaken by Council members if required. | |

21/125 FINANCE -

- (a) Bank Reconciliation – The June bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved
- (b) Cheques – Cheques for July payment were approved as follows:

| Chq No. | | Payee | Service |
|----------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| 100397 | £362.50 | Gingko Landscaping | Lengthsman |
| 100398 | £781.79 | J. Hollington | Clerk |
| | £1144.29 | | |

21/126 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- The recent forum on motorbike noise and speed organised by Russell Oppenheimer, HCC Executive Member for Highways, and attended by Damien Hinds and Donna Jones, the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, was well supported by Parish Councils. There are a number of options being considered to address issues and it is hoped that progress can be made – for more information on the outcomes of the meeting, please see Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report.
- Brickyards – Cllr. Drew confirmed that a number of compliance issues are now being addressed through the system.
- Grants – Cllr. Drew has recently approved grants towards the Shakespeare Festival and the Petersfield Choir. He reminded Steep P.C. that environmental grants are available.

21/127 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting. In his absence, the Chairman went through the report to highlight the issues raised. The full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Parish Council website and the parish newsletter.

21/128 FOOTPATHS – Cllr. Martin said she and the Clerk had met with representatives of Countryside Services to show them the priority footpath maintenance issues and they had been sympathetic to the Parish Council’s plight. It has been agreed that HCC will fund the materials required for HMG volunteers to carry out the repairs to F/P 20 (Hangers Way) and will liaise with the landowner in August about moving the drain. They will also provide a kissing gate which can be installed by the HMG volunteers on F/P 22a subject to landowner permission. Having seen the problems, Adam Macey confirmed that it would be appropriate for Steep P.C. to apply to Countryside Services for grant funding towards repairing the remaining paths.

Following discussion it was agreed that grant applications should be submitted to cover the repairs to footpath 22a, 17, 26 and the Permissive Path on Steep Common – Steep P.C. has a £2000 budget to contribute to the repairs (£500 per path). The Clerk will complete the grant applications over the summer months.

JM/
Clerk

21/129 LUTCOMBE POND – Cllr. Turk said that he has spoken to Pete Durnell, the Countryside Ranger, who has confirmed that Countryside Services are able to make decisions about Lutcombe Pond. However, he is not currently minded to take action based on the proposals received so far - the Pond is heavily silted and this will always be a problem. It was agreed to discuss this issue further with Russell Oppenheimer – the Pond is a much-loved parish feature and Steep P.C. will not give up just yet.

21/130 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Signage Presentation – A presentation sent in by a member of The Petersfield Society showing many Steep signage issues (e.g. damaged/obscured/not relevant) had been

- circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Holmes volunteered to lead a working party to look at the presentation in more detail, create an inventory, and consider what action can be taken to improve the situation – volunteers for the working party will be sought via the September newsletter FH
- (b) Brickyards Cottages – Traffic Signage – Correspondence received from the owners of Brickyards Cottages about the need for traffic signage to prevent large lorries who are trying to find the Brickyards Industrial Units accessing the narrow lane was discussed. It was agreed that this should be pursued via Hampshire Highways. Clerk
- (c) Parish Forum – Motorcycle Noise – Cllr. Holmes reported further on the Zoom meeting she had attended on behalf of Steep P.C. – she also confirmed that she is happy to continue to liaise with the group. FH
- 21/131 COMMUNITY PROJECT – SWINGS AT HAYES COTTAGES – In Cllr. Graham’s absence, this item was carried over until the September meeting.
- 21/132 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL – The EHDC Conservation Officer has requested more detailed information about the proposed repair – the Clerk will meet with Chris Budd to discuss and respond. Clerk
- 21/133 STEEP COMMON –
- (a) S.106 monies – Receipt of the grant is subject to various conditions and these were noted:
- ***The area will be re-planted with different native species*** – consideration will be given to applying for an environmental grant from Cllr. Drew with HMG volunteers being asked to help with the re-planting. Clerk
 - ***Publicity for the completed project*** – Posters will be advertised at the Common and an article published in the parish newsletter and advertised on the P.C. website. FH
 - ***Photos and invoices submitted*** – Cllr. Graham will be asked to take photos for use in advertising and for EHDC purposes. JG
- (b) Annual Inspection – Items that can be carried out by the Lengthsman (e.g. building up the top soil around the play equipment to prevent a trip hazard) will be added to the Lengthsman’s worksheet. FH
- 21/134 CORRESPONDENCE:
- ICO – The Information Commissioner’s Office has contacted Steep P.C. following a complaint by a resident – however, to date, the Parish Council is unaware of the exact nature of the complaint.
- 21/135 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – Members of the public were excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 to enable Councillors to discuss the Clerk’s salary.
- Following discussion it was agreed that in view of the extra work carried out by the Clerk over the past year, an extra hour per week would be paid retrospectively – this amount will be shared between the P.C. and SWMVC
- 21/136 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – A Meeting of Steep Parish Council to welcome the two new Parish Councillors before the Summer break will be held on Monday, 19th July 2021 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS
1 JULY 2021**

1. Serving Hampshire consultation

Hampshire County Council is currently consulting on ways to find £80m of savings from its annual budget. It is a broad consultation. If you have strong views on things like the importance of Household Waste and Recycling Centres, then I would encourage you to take 10 minutes to complete the online consultation. It is quite likely that there will only be around 4,000 responses so your opinion will carry genuine weight. You can complete the consultation at this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancing-the-budget>

The consultation closes on Sunday 18 July 2021.

2. Active Travel schemes

At my first “Decision Day” on 17 June 2021 I decided to remove all the emergency active travel schemes in Hampshire once Covid lockdown restrictions end on 19 July. The only exception is Winchester due to their ongoing Movement Strategy. The plastic barriers in Petersfield will be removed in late July or early August.

Lessons have been learned from the “pop-up” schemes implemented during the pandemic. Those lessons will inform

the next phase of Active Travel measures. Decisions on Phase 2 Active Travel measures will be taken in late July and implemented later in the year. These schemes will be tasteful, permanent and will make no use of plastic barriers. Hampshire County Council is committed to improving walking and cycling networks and this will form a core plank of our Local Transport Plan later this year.

3. Parish Forum on Motorbike Noise and Nuisance

On 25 June 2021 I chaired a Parish Forum to consider actions to tackle the scourge of motorbike noise and damage to BOATs in our area. The meeting was well attended and I am grateful to all those Parish Councillors who attended from Petersfield Hangers Division.

Damian Hinds MP explained that he is working closely with Flick Drummond MP to pursue action at the national level. He is pushing for the outcome of the Department for Transport trial into acoustic cameras to be published. Damian is also following closely the acoustic camera trial at Kensington & Chelsea which uses Public Space Protection Orders to penalise noise as anti-social behaviour with £100 fines. Damian and Flick will continue to seek to build a coalition of other MPs towards the possible establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group. Damian cautioned that legislative change may be difficult to achieve in a reasonable timescale so we should find interventions within the current regulations.

Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, set out her priority actions with the Roads Police Team. They are undertaking a feasibility study into average speed cameras and she is committed to more patrols, including outside Loomies. Donna also explained that technological progress may provide solutions in the coming years. Donna Jones listened carefully to all the points raised and undertook to redouble efforts with the Hampshire Constabulary to find ways to tackle the excessive noise and

speed of motorbikes. Donna and I will meet to co-ordinate our efforts.

As Executive Member for Highways I explained that I am awaiting an “options report” on possible measures which HCC could take as the Highways Authority. This may include such measures as:

- Signs, lines and coloured surfacing
- Rumble strips and over-run areas.
- Speed limit reminder signs (vehicle activated)
- Speed limit reductions.
- Low noise surfacing
- Traffic calming (e.g. chicanes and build-outs)
- Sound barriers
- Road realignment
- Education, Training and Publicity

On BOATs, it was agreed that it was incredibly unwise to spend public money repairing BOATs so that they could be degraded all over again by vehicles, as seemed to be the current situation. Cllr Robert Mocatta summarised the campaign which he is leading at the SDNPA which seeks to persuade the Authority to use its powers to make Traffic Regulation Orders on the byways open to all traffic (BOATs). This would require the gathering of evidence and working with communities. It was also widely agreed that the National Park Authority had a statutory duty to conserve and enhance the countryside, and to safeguard access to the countryside, and to promote the health and wellbeing of communities, all of which would be well served by meaningful action in this area.

The Campaign Against Noise and Speed set out their progress in progressing their campaign. Parish Councils who are not currently affiliated with them may wish to consider whether they should become members to add to the weight of that campaigning organisation.

Tangible progress in tackling this problem may take some time but your elected representatives will continue to work together

to identify effective and affordable solutions, and we will organise another Parish Forum to update you in due course.

4. Recycling of glass at HWRCs

I wanted to explain why glass bottle banks at the HWRC are being removed.

The use of glass banks at the HWRCs has declined significantly across the county over the past few years, as districts have introduced kerbside services, with between 60-80% less glass being deposited at the sites. In addition, EHDC does provide glass recycling facilities in places such as car parks and supermarkets.

The glass bank provision at the HWRCs incurs significant costs. The haulage costs of the material far outweigh any income that is derived from the material. Due to the ongoing financial pressures we are unable to fund services where more effective provision is made for a material elsewhere in the system. Our focus has to be on waste prevention as the number one remedy so that we seek to avoid creating the waste in the first place, reducing the carbon impact of waste and helping to manage our resources in the most effective way. The move also maximises space at HWRCs for bulkier items for which kerbside collection is less suitable.

5. Boundary Commission review

The Boundary Commission for England has proposed to chop several Parishes out of East Hampshire.

If approved by Parliament following consultation, two Bordon wards (Pinewood and Chase), Lindford, Headley, Grayshott and Bramshott and Liphook wards would join a new Parliamentary constituency with SW Surrey named "Farnham and Bordon". This move will damage the interests of residents

by making it harder to co-ordinate local government services with national priorities. Further boundary fragmentation will inevitably make it harder to deliver joined-up approaches across welfare, economic development, climate change and transport.

Although this does not affect any Parishes within Petersfield Hangers, I would invite you all to consider how you would feel if the Boundary Commission proposed to move your Parish to a constituency with a Surrey MP. Our community will be divided and the impact on Whitehill and Bordon is especially concerning. I feel we need to show solidarity with our neighbouring Parishes and contribute to the outcry. I have made a strong objection and I would be very grateful if Parishes could debate this issue and consider making objections too (or make individual responses if you prefer).

You can respond online at this web link (enter postcode and then click on the map).

<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

6. Queen Elizabeth Country Park secures grant to boost family-friendly cycle facilities

Good news for mountain bike enthusiasts in East Hants!
Please see this link for the full Press Release.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/25062021cyclefacilitiesQEpark>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers