

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Steep Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 4th October 2021
at Steep Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Terry Cook Charlotte Duthie
Jeff Graham Freddie Holmes Nick Hurst
Andrew Martin Jonathan Turk

In Attendance: Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 3 members of the public present at the meeting.

Minute	Item	Action
21/157	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Jenny Martin, County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer and District Councillor, Nick Drew.	
21/158	<u>MINUTES</u> – Subject to an addition to Minute 21/149 - Lutcombe Pond - to state that “any work done would require approval and supervision by HCC”, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 th September 2021 were approved and signed.	
21/159	<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.	
21/160	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almshouse access – A resident of Church Road expressed concern about the safety of residents and visitors to the Almshouses now that the old hedge has been removed. Cars are travelling at some speed very close to the gate making access very dangerous. The Chairman confirmed that a member of the Parish Council would follow up on this.• Cricketer’s access – It was queried whether the old pathway from Hayes Cottages through to the Cricketers Pub could be reinstated? The Chairman said he thought that the land in question might be owned by Radian, but this will be investigated.• Coffee Cart – There has been an expression of interest from a local business in using the car park at the Village Hall on a Saturday, to sell eco-refills in addition to coffee and cake – the Village Hall Management Committee will follow up.• Lutcombe Pond – The Parish Council were urged to continue to pursue the repair of the leak at Lutcombe Pond despite the current obstacles – the Pond is a much loved and valued parish feature.	
21/161	<u>DATA PROTECTION</u> – The training session organised for 27 th September has been cancelled and was rearranged for Monday, 15 th November, subject to availability of the Trainer. Note – following the meeting, the date was moved to Monday, 22 nd November (venue to be confirmed).	
21/162	<u>LAND AT CHURCH ROAD</u> – The Chairman is in regular contact with both Anthony Littlejohn (Chairman of SIN) and Stuart Wilson, the developer. He reported that Stuart Wilson has engaged a team of architects experienced in the “landscape led” approach required by SDNPA and is currently sifting through a 58-page report bringing together the results of all the site surveys. Once the report	

has been absorbed a schematic will be drawn up and SDNPA input sought, prior to consulting the village - this could delay the consultation until the New Year.

Concerns were expressed about the process and timescale – it had been understood that residents would be part of the “journey” and able to input their ideas as part of the consultation process. The Chairman explained that this would not be possible because of SDNPA requirements for a “landscape led” approach. Councillors wanted to see a firm date for the beginning of consultation and suggested it should start in December

In response to questions about the background of the site from Cllr. Duthie, the Chairman offered to meet separately to explain the history of the site.

CD/
Chair

21/163 FINANCE -

- (a) Audit 1920/21 - The review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) by the External Auditor has now been concluded - the Auditor has concluded that the information provided is in accordance with Proper Practices and that no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern.
- (b) Bank Reconciliation – A copy of the most recent current account bank statement and the bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed.
- (c) Cheques – Cheques for October payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100411	£450.00	GinKgo Landscaping	Lengthsman
100412	£730.00	Jenny Hollington	Clerk
	£1,180.00		

21/164 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – In the absence of Cllr. Oppenheimer, the HCC report, circulated prior to the meeting, was discussed and the following items noted:

- Lengthsman funding – HCC funding for the Scheme is likely to be withdrawn in 2023 but it is hoped that parishes will keep local clusters going by allocating funding from their precepts.
- New Twinstream recycling strategy – HCC plan to go for a new Twinstream approach to recycling which means that residents will put paper and card in a separate recycling bin. Other recyclables will still be mixed, and more plastics will be accepted.

Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report is appended to these Minutes and can be seen on the Parish Council website – www.steep-pc.gov.uk

21/165 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – No report had been received from Cllr. Drew but in response to a query about the current situation at Brickyards, Cllr. Hurst said that he believed that Cllr. Drew is supporting residents appropriately. Cllr. Drew has been asked to fund a traffic survey carried out in the Marsh by the Steep Marsh Residents Association – the Clerk will follow this up via Cllr. Drew to find out if it is possible to fund a retrospective application. Cllr. Drew has also suggested that the speedwatch volunteers apply for a grant to fund heavy duty branded jackets for the winter – Cllr. Graham will take this forward.

Clerk
JG

21/166 LENGTHSMAN – As well as routine maintenance, the Lengthsman will be asked to cut back around the seating area at the top of Mill Lane and tidy up the area around the stream at Mill Lane. In addition, footpath 13 needs cutting back where it is narrow and overgrown.

Clerk

21/167 FOOTPATHS – No progress has yet been made with grant applications and there has been no feedback from Radian about the overgrown hedges blocking the footpath from Stoner Hill to Hayes Cottages. These items will be chased/progressed for the November meeting.

Clerk

21/168 ASHFORD HANGERS

Ash Die-back – Ash die-back is an issue across the County, but HCC policy is to fell only those affected trees which overhang property/roads/or are adjacent to a footpath with heavy footfall (note – it is not thought that the footpaths through the Hangers fall into this category). If a tree falls in woodland areas, they are left to decay (this does not increase spread of disease). Cllr. Cook expressed concern that the Hangers are not looking good and are not being appropriately managed – currently if appears the Hampshire Monday Group (a group of local volunteers) are doing all the work. Cllr. Cook queried why HCC are not required to re-plant trees on their land, especially when there are grants available? The Chairman said he shared Cllr. Cook’s concerns and undertook to request specific information on re-planting schemes from the Rangers.

Chair

Lutcombe Pond – There has been no feedback from Cllr. Oppenheimer on permissions required for the Parish Council to take on the project. Cllr. Cook noted that the Pond is shown on a 200-year-old map.

21/169 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Signage Working Party – Three volunteers have come forward to help with the assessment of parish signage and each will be allocated an area of the village to focus on. More feedback will be given at the November meeting. FH
- (b) Eroding Bank at Steep Hollow – The Chairman has spoken to the residents who raised this concern, and this will be followed up with Hampshire Highways.
- (c) Overgrown Hedges in Church Road – There are a number of roadside hedges obscuring sight lines in Church Road – letters will be sent to request residents cut them back. Clerk
- (d) Speed Indicator for C18 – Indicative quotes have been received from 4 companies, ranging from £2,500 - £3,500 depending on exact requirements – the consensus of the meeting was that a solar powered sign which registers drivers’ speeds would be the most appropriate. The Clerk was asked to check the details of S.106 grant funding promised for this project – to be discussed again in November. JT
Clerk
- (e) Ridge Common Lane – Cllr. Turk said he had contacted Cllr. Oppenheimer about inappropriate volumes of traffic being directed along Ridge Common Lane during local road closures and Cllr. Oppenheimer has undertaken to investigate.

21/170 REGENERATION FUND – Cllr. Holmes has spoken to Beatrice Hubert-Price at EHDC about availability of the funding stream for the “beautification of East Hampshire” – closing date 31st March 2022. Various projects had been identified and have been followed up on. Cllr. Holmes has received 3 quotes for restoration of the B.T. phone box but these vary from £3,500 for full restoration to £470 for the immediate work required. It was queried whether the proposed new swings at Hayes Cottages could be funded from this grant – Cllr. Holmes will find out. It was agreed to go ahead with the full restoration of the B.T. phone box if the grant could be guaranteed. FH

In respect of the old iron signpost at the junction of Ashford Lane and Mill Lane, Hampshire County Council has agreed to renovate this from their specific grant fund.

21/171 COMMUNITY PROJECT – SWINGS AT HAYES COTTAGES – A draft consultation leaflet has been circulated and once approved, will be distributed during October – Cllr. Duthie offered to help Cllr. Graham with delivery of the leaflet. JG/
CD

21/172 STEEP COMMON

- (a) Phase 2 Tree Work - Cllr. Graham is in dialogue with the contractor re start date. JG
- (b) Bonfire & Firework Event – 5th November 20-21 - Much to everyone’s disappointment the event was unable to take place last year due to Covid-19 restrictions - this year it is hoped to

go ahead, and initial preparations are underway. The use of the Common for the event, subject to satisfactory risk assessment and approval from Hiscox Insurance, was approved.

Clerk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

21/173

- SDNPA – Dark Skies – Steep Village Hall – Monday, 25th October – 6.30 p.m. All welcome.
- SDNPA Webinar – Nature Recovery – 13th October – the Chairman will attend this event
- EHDC – COP26 – 8th October at Alton Maltings
- Remembrance Day – 11th November 2021 – all welcome – the Clerk was asked to liaise with the Vicar about arrangements. Cllr. Andrew Martin will liaise re a student bugler to sound the last post.

Clerk/
AM

CORRESPONDENCE

21/174

- E-mail correspondence from ICO – The Chairman confirmed that this has now been dealt with.

21/175

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be Monday, 1st November at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.