

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN:** Jim MacDonald

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Steep Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
at Steep Village Hall**

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

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

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

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
21/137	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Nick Hurst.	
21/138	<u>ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE</u> – The Chairman welcomed new Parish Councillor, Charlotte Duthie, to the meeting and the Acceptance of Office was duly signed and witnessed. New Councillor training sessions will be arranged via HALC for all Councillors who have not yet participated.	Clerk
21/139	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 5 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved and signed.	
21/140	<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.	
21/141	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A resident welcomed new Councillors on behalf of the village and said she looked forward to seeing them around.</li><li>• It was noted that it is Alma’s last day in the Village Hall car park on 18<sup>th</sup> September – Alma is leaving to run a café in Petersfield. The coffee cart has been very successful in bringing people together, especially during lockdown, and residents will be sorry to see her go.</li></ul>	
21/142	<u>DATA AND PRIVACY POLICY</u> – The up-dated Data Protection and Privacy Policy, circulated prior to the meeting, was discussed, and approved. It was noted that a data retention policy will also be required as this is not fully covered by the Data and Privacy policy. The Data Protection Training session for all Councillors has been organised for 27 <sup>th</sup> September at 700 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.	Clerk
21/143	<u>LAND AT CHURCH ROAD</u> – The Chairman reported that Stuart Wilson is still in the process of bringing together the information gathered via surveys etc. He has now engaged a team of architects but there is no date at this stage for public consultation. Stuart has, however, been liaising with a number of residents who have been impressed with his drive and enthusiasm.	

Cllr. Duthie enquired whether SIN provide regular up-dates to the Parish Council and the Chairman explained that he is in regular contact with SIN who are working closely with Stuart Wilson.

In response to a question about requests for an allotment at Church Road, the Clerk advised that the number of residents enquiring so far has been low. If, in the future there are more requests, plots will be reserved at Adhurst Allotments just past the Harrow.

In response to a question about the date of the next SWMVC Trustee Meeting, the Chairman explained that the meetings are ad hoc and not open to members of the public.

21/144 FINANCE -

- (a) A decision on the grant application from Victim Support was deferred until nearer the end of the financial year, when it will be clear how much of the budget remains unspent.
- (b) A grant application towards hall hire costs for the Dark Skies Event being organised by Cllr. Holmes in conjunction with SDNPA and being held at Steep Village Hall during the October half term holiday was approved (3 hours hall hire - cost £45.00)
- (c) SDNPA CiL Funding amounting to £434 has been received during the financial year - this money must be used towards community projects. It was agreed to wait until there is a bit more funding in the pot before deciding what the money should be spent on.
- (d) Cheques – Cheques for August payment had been approved by the cheque signatories over the summer as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100399	£54.60	Petersfield Town Council	Dog bin clearance - April-June
100400	£1,162.50	Ginkgo Landscaping	Lengthsman - July
100401	£75.00	Tom Morgan	Website management
100402	£1,080.00	Surrey Hills Solicitors	Freedom of Information advice
100403	£730.00	Jenny Hollington	Clerk
	£3,102.10		

- (a) The bank reconciliation for August had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed.
- (b) Cheques for September payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100404	£240.00	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit
100405		Cancelled	written in error
100406	£60.00	Mythic Beasts	Website hosting
100407	£700.00	GinKgo Landscaping	Lengthsman
100408	£40.00	ICO	Annual renewal
100409	£16.00	J. Graham	Refund - Hi Viz vests for Speedwatch
100409	£730.00	Jenny Hollington	Clerk
	£1,786.00		

21/145

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items highlighted:

- Project Gigabit – Cllr. Oppenheimer up-dated those present on this project to improve broadband speed – Hampshire Hangers falls within the second wave of procurements “Phase 1b”. Residents can check whether their property falls within the procurement area via: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploa>

[ds/attachment\\_data/file/1011873/Hampshire IoW OMR Postcode Output.ods](https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/attachment_data/file/1011873/Hampshire_IoW_OMR_Postcode_Output.ods)

- Preparing for a safe return to School – Cllr. Oppenheimer outlined up-dated guidance for schools and colleges.
- Welcoming Afghan families to Hampshire – HCC is working with local partners to assist Afghan families moving to the UK as part of the Government’s Relocation and Assistance Policy programme.
- PeCAN – Cllr. Oppenheimer was pleased to report that following receipt of substantial grant funding, PeCAN now has two members of staff to help and advise residents on eco retrofit solutions.

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

21/146

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

- Covid-19 – East Hampshire is experiencing a general increase in Covid-19 cases – residents are urged to remain cautious.
- EHDC Services – Bin collections have continued despite driver shortages
- Aircraft Noise – Farnborough Airport’s changes to flight paths have caused a noticeable increase in noise from low-flying aircraft – anyone impacted should contact Nick on: [nick.drew@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:nick.drew@easthants.gov.uk)
- Speedwatch – Cllr. Drew thanked the volunteers for giving up their time and congratulated them on the difference they are making to speeds on the C18.
- Crime – There have been several recent instances of break-ins locally to farm buildings and garages – residents are urged to ensure their property is secure.

21/147

LENGTHSMAN – The Lengthsman will be asked to keep on top of regular maintenance work – clearing grips on footpaths and clearing around road signs. A separate quote will be requested for work at Steep Common (cutting back the hedge hard and filling in the gaps).

FH/  
Clerk

21/148

FOOTPATHS – The very wet patch on F/P 18 has been brought to the attention of Cllr. Martin – it was agreed that this issue should be discussed with the Countryside Access Team as it forms part of the Hangers Way.

JM/  
Clerk

21/149

LUTCOMBE POND – Cllr. Turk has been liaising with Pete Durnell, HCC Ranger, whose general feeling is that the heavy silting of the pond will always be a problem and that it may therefore be better to allow the dam to fail and for the area to revert to a natural stream - especially in view of the high costs estimated for repair. It therefore appears that the only way forward would be for Steep P.C. to bid for funding and take the project forward themselves – Cllr. Oppenheimer will check what permissions would be required from HCC to enable this. Any work carried out would require approval and supervision by HCC.

JT

21/150

ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Signage Working Party – Cllr. Holmes will take forward the project to monitor the condition of the road signs around the parish with a volunteer work party and using the on-line mapping tool.
- (b) Brickyards Cottages – Traffic Signage – Hampshire Highways has agreed to deal with this issue.
- (c) Flooding in Ashford Lane – It appears that the culvert is still blocked and causing problems – the issue will be reported again via the Hampshire website
- (d) Speed Indicator for C18 – There has been no up-date from HCC on funding and plans for the Phase 2 Traffic Management Programme. It was suggested that the Parish Council could go

FH

FH

ahead with the installation of a speed indicator device to make drivers aware of their speed through the village in the interim. Cllr. Turk was asked to look at various options for consideration at the October meeting.

JT

- 21/151 MOTORCYCLE NOISE – The most recent planning application for Loomies Moto Café in West Meon, which seeks to repurpose a caravan currently used as office as living space providing two bedrooms was discussed. It was agreed that Steep Parish Council would object to application due to the creeping development on the site – the Cafe already attracts large numbers of motorbikes to the area and the associated problems of safety and noise level are inappropriate in the National Park. Clerk
- 21/152 COMMUNITY PROJECT – SWINGS AT HAYES COTTAGES – A note to consult with residents of Hayes Cottages about the proposal to install a swing on the green, will be drafted by Cllr. Graham. JG
- 21/153 STEEP COMMON – PHASE 2 TREE WORK (ASH DIE BACK) - Cllr. Graham will meet the contractor at the Common to ensure there have been no changes to the condition of the trees and pencil in a date for the second phase of work to commence. The intention is to re-plant the area with different native tree species - Cllr. Andrew Martin said he hoped it might be possible for Bedales' students to help with this project as part of the Badley weekend. He and Cllr. Graham will meet at the Common to look at what the students could get involved with. JG/AM
- 21/154 FORTHCOMING EVENTS
- SDNPA – Dark Skies – Steep Village Hall – Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October – 6.30 p.m.
  - SDNPA Webinar – Nature Recovery – 13<sup>th</sup> October
- FH/All  
Chair
- 21/155 CORRESPONDENCE:
- ICO – Advice is being sought following correspondence from the ICO's office
- Chair/  
Clerk
- 21/156 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.