

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Steep Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 4th April 2022
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: Jenny Hollington, Clerk

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

Minute	Item	Action
22/57	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Nick Hurst, District Cllr. Nick Drew, and County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer	
22/58	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 th March were approved and signed.	
22/59	<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 of the Parish Council role as Sole Managing Trustee of the Village Hall and of the possible conflict of loyalties between the two roles. The Chairman declared an interest in item 22/69 (a) as his wife is Chief Executive of Citizen’s Advice and took no part in the discussion and decision-making process in relation to the grant application for East Hants CAB.	
22/60	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will Goldsmith introduced himself as the new Head of Bedales Schools – the Chairman welcomed him and thanked him for attending the meeting. Steep P.C. look forward to a good working relationship going forward• A resident of Church Road noted the resignation of Suzanne Knights who has been looking after the planting area at the War Memorial for several years. She felt it was a great shame as the War Memorial has never looked so good, and wondered whether she might reconsider if safety could be improved? Cllr. Cook confirmed that he had spoken to Suzanne, and this is not an option.• It was noted that many other local villages have a lovely display of daffodils as you enter the village and asked whether it would be possible to plant daffodil bulbs at the entrance to Steep and/or on the corner of Mill Lane/Church Road as an interim measure? The Chairman confirmed that this was something that could certainly be considered for the future.	
22/61	<u>LAND AT CHURCH ROAD</u> – A report from the Working Group had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting and copies were available at the meeting. Cllr. Martin thanked the volunteers for their time and effort so far – there is still a lot to sort out, but it seems to be going in the right direction. Cllr. Duffy questioned her contribution to the Group, as the only person not in favour of development. She felt the group were working as though development of 10-houses is a fait accompli and that this doesn’t reflect the feelings of residents opposed to development. Cllr. Martin assured Cllr. Duffy	

that the intention of the Working Group is to draw all groups together and that her input is valued. A Working Group website will be up and running shortly which will make it easier for all residents to give feedback.

22/62 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL – The resignation of Suzanne Knights was noted with great regret – Suzanne, together with her husband, Tony, has done a wonderful job and will be very much missed – the Clerk was asked to send a thank you letter and flowers. In the meantime, Cllr. Holmes will advertise in the newsletter to see if there is anyone else willing to take over the role. Clerk/
FH

22/63 THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME – Agreement to continue the scheme for 22-23 was confirmed. The Clerk was asked to complete the necessary paperwork. Clerk

22/64 ASHFORD HANGERS AND LUTCOMBE POND – The meeting with HCC Rangers has been postponed and will be held on 27th April – in the meantime the Countryside Services strategy document for the site has been sent through and will be circulated to Councillors. The Chairman explained that a non-intervention plan is intended meaning that trees affected by ash die back will not be felled and replaced and the hope is that natural regeneration will occur. Strong concern was expressed that the much-loved woodland canopy will be devastated as a result of this plan - it is hoped that a compromise could be reached.

22/65 STEEP COMMON – Exciting things have been happening at Steep Common with over 120 trees having been planted by members of the community, including Steep Primary School children and staff and children from Bedales. Cllr. Graham was thanked for his huge efforts in drawing this project together – he, in turn, thanked everyone who had volunteered to help.

Cllr. Andrew Martin confirmed that children from Bedales have also now pressure washed the play equipment.

22/66 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Mill Lane - Following intervention by Cllr. Oppenheimer, Hampshire Highways has agreed to re-surface Mill Lane – Cllr. Oppenheimer/Hampshire Highways will be advised that it is important that the drainage issues outside Cobblers are addressed beforehand.
- (b) Village Gates – Detailed drawings from Joe Folland at HCC are awaited
- (c) Road Signage Survey – The road signage survey is now almost complete.
- (d) Speed Indicator Device – As soon as the appropriate permissions have been granted, the SID will be installed on the lamppost outside the Dunhurst entrance on Bell Hill. As soon as the ground sockets have been installed by Hampshire Highways, two other sites on Stoner/Bell Hill will be utilised.

22/67 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and, in his absence, the following items were noted:

- Details of the HCC role in carrying out home checks once Ukrainian refugees have arrived with their hosts were explained. At the time of the report, 45 families and 9 individuals have arrived in Hampshire and over 800 hosts have been registered within the county.
- Neurodiversity and Autism Acceptance Week – Details of a number of promotions and schemes creating more inclusive cultures were noted.
- Tree Planting – Attention was drawn to two projects – Trees for the Downs and The Woodland Trust free packs for schools and communities.

Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Parish Council website.

22/68 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – Cllr. Drew was unable to be present and no report was available.

22/69 FINANCE

- (a) Grant application – CAB – The Chairman handed over the Chair to the Vice Chair for discussion of this item. A grant of £200 was approved.
- (b) Bank reconciliation – The bank reconciliation to 10th March had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed.
- (c) Cheques for April payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100445	£390.00	Sawscapes Play Ltd	Rewritten cheque - Play equipment repairs
100446	£816.48	Mill Farm Trees	Trees for Steep Common
100447	£74.83	Jeff Graham	Refund - Top Soil - tree planting
100448	£746.90	Jenny Hollington	Clerk
100449		Cancelled	
100450	£300.00	Hart Landscaping	Lengthsman
100451	£200.00	CAB	Grant
	£2,528.21		

22/70 THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE – Plans are now well underway for a celebratory community event to be held on Saturday, 4th June at Steep Common – full details will be made available via the May newsletter.

22/71 ON-GOING ISSUES – The following items were noted:

- Adhurst St Mary – No response has been received from SDNPA or EHDC in respect of concern about the condition of East Court.
- Community Project – Attention was drawn to the availability of EHDC grant funding of up to 50% towards the cost of a community project. Discussion followed about whether to progress the proposal for a swing at Hayes Cottages. It was noted that if the Parish Council were to go ahead, match funding would be required.

22/72 MEETINGS ATTENDED:

- SDNPA Town and Parish Council Workshop – Cllr. Martin reported on the workshop which had been largely focussed on the Glover report and the proposal for Rangers to have increased powers to enforce Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) on Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs).
- HCC Town and Parish event – Cllr. Holmes attended this meeting which was focussed on roads issues and the lack of funding.
- EHAP&TC Meeting – The Chairman explained that this meeting too had largely focussed on the Glover Report – many local Councils are strongly supportive of the proposal for increased powers for the National Park and a response to this effect has been submitted. A paper has also been submitted to DEFRA outlining the issues experienced in East Hampshire and supporting extra powers to manage and preserve the BOATs for all.

22/73 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Assembly and AGM which will be held on Monday, 9th May 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.