

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

DRAFT

**Minutes of a Meeting of Steep Parish Council held on Monday, 5th December 2022
at Steep Village Hall**

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

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

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

The Chairman announced that item 10 on the agenda – To approve the appointment of a new Parish Clerk - would be moved to the end of the meeting and that members of the public would be asked to leave the room for this item. He noted that this was Jenny Hollington’s last Steep Parish Council Meeting and thanked her for her work over the past 14 years – she will be greatly missed.

Minute	Item	Action
22/187	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer	
22/188	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 7 th November were approved as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed.	
22/189	<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. None declared.	
22/190	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – None received.	
22/191	<u>LAND AT CHURCH ROAD</u> – The Chairman noted that it had been a quiet month and there was nothing specific to report.	
22/192	<u>VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEE WORKING GROUP REPORT</u> - A report from the Working Group had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting and was read out to the meeting (Appendix A).	

The working party has not met since the last Parish Council meeting, but work has continued behind the scenes. A 5-year business plan is being progressed but there is a lot more work to be done. In preparation for a Trustee Meeting at the end of November, the working group presented notes on the question of engaging a highways consultant to ascertain whether moving the entrance of the Village Hall might be a feasible option with HCC Highways. Trustees had agreed, in principle, to appoint a highways consultant to handle the pre-app when it is required, but not before SDNPA feedback is received on the pre application submission by Stuart Wilson. Trustees also agreed that Cllr. Turk and Cllr. Jenny Martin should liaise with Stuart Wilson to ascertain his willingness to support work on the Village Hall land if plans do progress.

The full report from the Trustee Working Party is appended to the Minutes and can be found via the Parish Council website.

- 22/193 CHURCH ROAD – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY – Any development on land at Church Road will of course have an impact on traffic in Church Road and it is important to consider what improvements people would like to see – e.g. change of surfacing/traffic calming, etc. CIL monies will be available to fund any changes if development goes ahead. It was agreed to form a working party consisting of representatives of the Parish Council, Steep and Bedales Schools, and residents, to look at this issue in detail and put ideas forward. Cllr. Duthie volunteered to lead the working party with Cllr. Cook and a note will be included in the next Village Newsletter asking volunteers to contact Cllr. Duthie.

CD/TC

Cllr. Duthie left the meeting following this item.

- 22/194 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT - Russell Oppenheimer’s monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items noted:

- Highways preparedness – A lot of work has gone into ensuring Hampshire Highways are fully prepared for the winter. Salting crews are on standby and salt stores are full. Arboriculture teams are also on standby to clear trees. Please report issues via www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/
- Arts Council funding – The Arts Council has increased their funding to Hampshire arts organisations to £1.9m. Ten organisations in Hampshire will receive annual funding to deliver access to high quality cultural experience linked to theatre, music, heritage, arts and dance across the County.
- The Miyawaki method of tree planting – HCC has joined forces with The Tree Council to plant a mini forest on the Adhurst Estate in Sheet using the Miyawaki method. HCC intend planting more mini-forests using the Miyawaki method and if you know of a suitable location please contact treeplanting@hants.gov.uk – it was agreed that this should be followed up in respect of Ashford Hangers.
- Extra payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts – HCC is to make additional Christmas payments to Homes for Ukraine hosts and guests of £250 to residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government Scheme and £200 per Ukrainian guest to support them over the holiday period.

CD

Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report will be appended to the minutes and made available via the website -www.steep-pc.gov.uk

- 22/195 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – Nick Drew reported on the following items:

- Planning Concerns – Cllr. Drew reminded Steep P.C. and residents to copy him into any correspondence in respect of planning concerns.
- Grant Application – Cllr. Drew said he was sorry that a grant application from the Welcome Club had been turned down and explained that his grant funding can’t be used for on-going costs.
- Waste Collections – Cllr. Drew reminded residents to contact EHDC if bins are not collected.
- Ukrainian Families – If any host family has concerns/questions, they are welcome to get in touch with Nick Drew who will try to point them in the right direction for information.
- Salvation Army – Cllr. Drew asked for any nominations of children in need of a toy parcel this Christmas. The Chairman will follow this up via Steep School.

Chair

Cllr. Drew was thanked for his regular support at P.C. meetings and at events such as the Remembrance Day Service.

22/196 ASHFORD HANGERS

Lutcombe Pond – No feedback received about the meeting between SDNPA, Natural England and HCC.

Ash Die-Back – The Chairman reported that he had written to HCC expressing the Parish Council's concerns about failing trees alongside Stoner Hill. A swift response had been received from James Lovegrove who is now managing the HCC county wide Ash die-back work programme, confirming that HCC has bought forward work that was due to be started next year and stating that it is likely that many trees will be removed from the upper slopes – road closures will be necessary. The Chairman has also liaised with Pete Durnell about the possibility of re-planting some areas of the Hangers rather than simply leaving the whole area to naturally regenerate - Pete has promised to look for suitable locations. Cllr. Cook asked permission to read a letter drafted by the Ashford Hangers Preservation Committee, setting out concerns in respect of HCC's regeneration strategy and noting the alternative strategy of felling and re-planting in other areas (e.g. Harting Down) and requesting this be considered for at least part of the Hangers – Cllr. Andrew Martin offered Bedales support for tree planting schemes and Nick Drew reminded everyone of EHDC's commitment to green projects. Councillors agreed that the letter should be sent to HCC, copied to the County and District Councillors, SDNPA representatives, as well as being shared with other local parishes

22/197 NEW P.C. WEBSITE – The Chairman explained that as well as the original two quotes, a third quote has been sought from Parish Council Websites Ltd., the company recommended by Greatham Parish Council (who won the HALC P.C. website of the year) and Grayshott (who had been runner up). The quote is very competitive, and it was agreed that the Working Party would follow up in more detail with this company and the local option. It was agreed to delegate the decision to the Working Party who will report back to the Parish Council at the January meeting.

22/198 LENGTHSMAN FUNDING 2023 – Cllr. Oppenheimer has advised that it is likely that HCC will fund the Lengthsman Scheme in 2023 and hopes to be able to confirm this in January.

22/199 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Phase 2 Traffic Management Scheme – The speedwatch team is in the process of collecting data from outside Owen's Cycles and provide feedback on average speed to Hampshire to enable consideration of a pedestrian crossing within the CFI. Joe Folland, HCC Engineer, hopes to implement the Scheme in the spring when the village gates will be installed, excess signage removed and the white lines re-painted.
- (b) Flooding – Jetting is due to take place in Mill Lane and Elmwood Corner towards the end of January. HCC is also in negotiation with residents in Ashford Lane to clear silt from their pond to improve drainage.
- (c) Speed Indicator Device (SID) – HCC has advised that a spare pole for the SID would cost £200 but could be paid for out of the SDNPA funding for the Phase 2 Management Scheme project. Concern was expressed that the SID has broken down twice now and queried whether this could be being caused by moving it between poles (although it is designed to be moved). It was agreed to look at the schedule to reduce/limit the number of moves required and monitor the situation for the time being. Councillors were reminded of the narrowness of the verge and the safety of the local volunteer who moves the device.
- (d) Overgrown hedges and overhanging trees – There are several problem areas around the parish and the Clerk was asked to write to landowners to remind them of their responsibility to keep trees and hedges cut back. Clerk

22/200 FINANCE –

- (a) Budget 23-24 – Members of the Finance Committee met with the Clerk to produce a draft budget which been circulated prior to the meeting. Specifics to note are the proposed grant

of £5,000 to the Village Hall (LGA 1972, s. 133) - this had been well supported at the community meeting and approved by Council at the November meeting. A contingency of £3,000 to cover any unexpected costs due to inflation has also been included. With the inclusion of the above two items, the budget shows a deficit in income of £8,000 if the precept is kept at the current £25,000.

- (b) Precept 23-24 – A detailed breakdown showing the current Band D Council Tax per annum for Steep households and the difference any increase in precept would make to households had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that Steep remains extremely low (£47.60 per band D property) compared to other local parishes where the average across 10 similarly sized East Hampshire parishes is £83. Following detailed discussion, it was agreed to raise the precept to £32,000 for 2023-24 (this will equate to £61.26 per annum per Band D household), an increase of 28%. Following this decision, the budget 23-24 was approved.
- (c) Bank Reconciliation – The November bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.
- (d) Cheques for December payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100486	£160.00	Fair Account	Interim Audit (April - October)
100487	£115.44	Petersfield Town Council	Bin contract - Steep Common (July- Sept)
100488	£25.00	Steep PCC	Refund - Book Token for Bugler (Remembrance Day)
100490	£120.08	HMRC	Tax and N.I. - Clerk
100491	£1,246.92	Jenny Hollington	Clerk + backpay to April
	£1,667.44		

- 22/201 STEEP MARSH – Cllr. Hurst reported that the old noticeboard is now not fit for purpose and recommended the Council re-engage with the landowner about installation of the new board. The Chairman offered to liaise with the resident concerned. Chair
- 22/202 STEEP COMMON – Cllr. Andrew Martin confirmed he has applied for CPRE hedgerow funding and noted that Bedales have a labour day on 6th March should the application be successful. Bedales also have metal grids which can be re-distributed and might be useful for the entrance to the Common – he and Cllr. Graham will liaise. JG/AM
- 22/203 FOOTPATHS – The Clerk was reminded to write to the landowner of F/10 about the collapsed stile. Cllr. Jenny Martin will investigate reports that wooden planks have been used to cover a hole on Footpath 18. Clerk JM
- 22/204 COMMUNITY PROJECT – No feedback has been received as to why the grant application towards installation of swings at Hayes Cottages had been refused by EHDC. As soon as this is received, the Chairman and Cllr. Graham will re-engage with District Cllr. Nick Drew to follow up. Chair JG
- 22/205 CORRESPONDENCE – Correspondence, circulated prior to the meeting, was noted:
- SDNPA – Call for CIL projects 22-23 – Projects for consideration were discussed briefly – Swings at Hayes Cottages, Village Hall access, Lutcombe Pond
 - CPRE - Hedgerow Community Funding – As noted under 22/201, Cllr. Andrew Martin has applied for funding.
- 22/206 DATES OF MEETINGS 2023 – A list of meeting dates 2023 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved. These will be advertised via the parish council website.

Steep Parish Council Meeting – 05.12.2022

22/207 It was resolved that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that members of the public should be excluded from the meeting to enable discussion of the following item

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PARISH CLERK – The Chairman detailed the interview process and put forward the recommendation of the interview panel that Dawn Rodgers be offered the position of Parish Clerk. This was fully supported, and handover of the role will commence from the beginning of January 2023.

22/208 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING –The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on **Monday, 16th January 2023*** at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall

*To allow for the Christmas/New Year break

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL - PLANNING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Nick Hurst

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

DRAFT

Minutes of a Planning Committee Meeting held on 5th December 2022 at Steep Village Hall at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Nick Hurst (in the Chair) Charlotte Duthie Freddie Holmes
Jim MacDonald Jonathan Turk

In Attendance Clerk - Jenny Hollington

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

22/39 **APOLOGIES** – None received

22/40 **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 7th November 2022 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

22/41 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared.

22/42 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A resident explained that he had spoken to the planning officer about the retrospective application for Rother Barn and, as a result, the consultation deadline has been extended until Friday, 7th January to give residents more time to respond. He noted that the only change from the previous application, which had been dismissed at appeal, appears to be a reduced number of lorry spaces. His concerns in respect of the change of use of the land and the impact this would have on residents of nearby properties were noted.

22/43 **PLANNING** – Current applications were discussed, and the following comments agreed:

SDNP/22/0 5090/FUL	Retrospective application – Change of use of 400 sqm for storage purposes together with 3 x lorry parking spaces and welfare facilities	Rother Barn, Farnham Road, Liss GU33 6LJ	Objection – the application is contrary to policy CP19 of the Local Plan; change of use to B8 is a pre-requisite and has not been included; the additional noise from lorries reversing on site is contrary to Policy SD54 (noise pollution and disturbance); additional lighting requirements are contrary to Policy SD8 (Dark Skies). The application is little different to that previously submitted and dismissed on appeal.
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22/44 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – To be confirmed

The meeting closed at 7.28 p.m.

Steep Parish Council

Report from Trustee Working Group to Parish Council
December 2022

The working group has not met together since the last PC meeting (next meeting scheduled for 7th Dec) but work has continued to proceed behind the scenes.

Councillor Nick Hurst has taken the lead in producing a business plan for the village hall – this is a considerable task and although progress has been made there is more work to be done, particularly now the Village Hall has a new manager.

In preparation for the trustee meeting on 28th November the working group presented some notes on the question of engaging the services of a highways consultant to ascertain whether moving the entrance of the village hall might be a feasible option with HCC highways. The working group proposed that the consultant who is also acting for WDH would be the best option as he is familiar with the site and has carried out the required traffic survey. However, in the interests of best practice, trustees voted that at least 2 other quotes be sought. This is in process.

Trustees agreed the following proposal

“Trustees agree in principle to appoint a highways consultant to handle the pre-app when required”

No action will be taken or any costs incurred until the SDNPA has responded to WDH second pre-app submission and there is reasonable assurance on the layout.

The working group also proposed that one of the trustees update Stuart Wilson on the current situation, to negotiate on the drawings required and to ascertain his willingness to support work on the Hall land if things progress. Councillor Jonathan Turk agreed to take this on alongside Councillor Jenny Martin.

Jenny Martin
Chair Trustee Working Group

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS
1 DECEMBER 2022

1. Highways preparedness

A lot of work has gone into ensuring that Hampshire Highways are fully prepared for the winter. Salting crews are on standby and salt stores are full. Arboriculture teams are also on standby to clear trees. It is crucial that we keep our roads clear so that residents can get to work, school and college safely, as well as travel for their essential shopping needs.

Heavy, intense rainfall can result in localised flooding, and trying to keep surface water off Hampshire's 5,500 miles of road surfaces is at the forefront of our highways preventive maintenance work throughout the year.

Since January, the service's year-round maintenance programme has seen the cleaning and clearance of over 107,500 roadside gullies and 22,500 metres of linear drainage, 10,076 catchpits (chambers near to the carriageway that act like gullies and from which silt has to be cleared) and nearly 16,000 intercepting ditches (known as grips, which generally run between the road and adjacent ditch and help prevent surface water from pooling on the

road), as well as the completion of 13 major drainage improvement schemes across the county.

We have achieved this despite a reduction in real-terms funding brought about by inflation. I would also like to mention that Hampshire Highways won two awards at the National Highways Awards last month: the Environmental Sustainability Award and the Judges' Special Merit Award.

Parish Councils play an incredibly important role in keeping our roads clear by reporting issues to us as they happen. We are very grateful to you all for this – please keep it up.

The direct links to report road issues are here:

Potholes:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

When reporting an issue, you will be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow

this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

2. Arts Council boosts funding to Hampshire

In its latest round of funding, which was announced on 4 November, the Arts Council has increased their funding to Hampshire arts organisations to £1.9m. Ten organisations in Hampshire will receive annual funding from 2023-2026 to deliver access to high-quality cultural experiences and provide the opportunity for everyone to engage in arts, culture and creativity. These organisations will deliver projects linked to theatre, music, heritage, arts and dance across the County.

One of the organisations to receive new funding is in East Hampshire: the Phoenix Theatre will receive £81,000 annually for the three years of the funding period.

The package also includes £0.5m for the Hampshire Cultural Trust which runs museums across Hampshire including two in East Hampshire.

Arts are a key part of our community vibrancy and our quality of life. The boost to arts funding is also good for the economy as many jobs will be safeguarded or created by this funding.

3. The Miyawaki method of tree planting

HCC has joined forces with the Tree Council to plant our first mini-forest on the Adhurst estate (in Sheet) using the Miyawaki method. We are very grateful to all the allotment holders on the estate who have helped with the planting.



Akira Miyawaki was a Japanese botanist and an expert in plant ecology who specialized in seeds and natural forests. He was active worldwide as a specialist in natural restoration of degraded land.

Miyawaki developed a method of planting trees which achieves growth **ten times faster than normal planting** on an area usually around the size of a tennis court. The method involves careful soil preparation: first you aerate the soil and then add some mulch. The method then involves densely planting a range of native woodland trees. As well as creating faster growth, this method is also proven to be more beneficial to wildlife.

At HCC we intend to plant more mini-forests using the Miyawaki method and so please do contact us at treeplanting@hants.gov.uk if you know of a suitable location.

4. Extra payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts

Hampshire County Council is to make additional Christmas payments to Homes for Ukraine hosts and guests. HCC will be making an extra one-off £250 payment to Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme this Christmas, and £200 per Ukrainian guest to support them over the holiday period

We remain hugely grateful to the local hosts who continue to provide a safe haven for more than 1,300 Ukrainian families across our county. The county of Hampshire has welcomed the third highest number of Ukrainian nationals in England, which I think is a record we can be proud of.

The new payments will be distributed in mid-December and will be funded via the grant paid to upper tier local authorities to specifically support implementation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme locally. This funding is ring-fenced and cannot be used for any other purpose.

The new payments are in addition to the extra £200 discretionary payment being paid per month over a five-month period to local hosts by the County Council.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers