

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Steep Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 10th January 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: Russell Oppenheimer, County Councillor
Nick Drew, District Councillor
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

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

Minute	Item	Action
22/01	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Nick Hurst	
22/02	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 th December 2021 were approved and signed.	
22/03	<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.	
22/04	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish Councillors who voted to keep the land at Church Road on the agenda each month were thanked.• The Parish Council were urged not to lose sight of the repairs required at Lutcombe Pond despite the difficulties being experienced in getting the project off the ground.• A resident highlighted grants available for Village Halls and the willingness of residents to get involved to help. The Chairman confirmed that the public meeting planned for December (but cancelled due to concerns re rising cases of Omicron) will be re-organised as soon as it is felt safe to encourage residents to gather, to discuss the current situation. More information will be made available via the newsletter and the Village Hall website.• It was queried when Stuart Wilson and/or SIN Trustees would be engaging with residents about plans for the land at Church Road? The Chairman confirmed that both organisations will come forward once there is something to say. In the meantime, members of the public can contact SIN directly via their website and Stuart Wilson is also contactable via e-mail. In addition, pre application documents have now been posted on the SDNPA website (although the comments section has yet to be unlocked).	
22/05	<u>LAND AT CHURCH ROAD</u> – The Chairman said that he has received a response from Stuart Wilson following his correspondence expressing disappointment with the very squeezed timeline for consultation. Stuart Wilson has explained that, in part, the pre app is intended to provide an initial opportunity for residents to engage and to make them aware of the limitations of the site. Concerns were expressed that this approach is very different to what had been initially promised and appears	

to be a very low-quality level of engagement – not all residents have access to the website. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to push both Stuart Wilson and SIN Trustees to engage sooner rather than later with residents and, in addition, Cllr. Drew will liaise with Tim Slaney to request that public engagement is encouraged by SDNPA

22/06 CALLED IN PLANNING APPLICATION SDNP/21/04092/OUT – PETERSFIELD GOLF COURSE – USE OF LAND AS LODGE PARK FOR TOURISM – Concerns were expressed about the impact of the substantial increase of traffic which the lodges and additional staff would have on the unsuitable and potentially dangerous junction of the A3. Concerns about the impact on the landscape and drainage were also noted.

22/07 RESULT OF HEARING - APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE FOR ROTHER BARN CHRISTMAS TREE FARM – The outcome of the hearing at which a premises licence for the above organisation was approved, was noted, along with the additional conditions imposed which it is hoped will provide the necessary protection for residents.

22/08 ADHURST ST. MARY – The letter to Tim Slaney, Director of Planning at SDNPA, and the Listed Building Officer at EHDC requesting further remedial work is carried out has not yet been drafted. The Chairman and Clerk will liaise and send asap.

22/09 COMPLIANCE ISSUES AT THE BRICKYARDS – The Steep Marsh Residents Association has appointed a planning consultant to help them address their concerns about the most recent planning application for the Brickyards. At the last Parish Council meeting it had been suggested that the Parish Council keeps on top of the compliance issues via Planning Officers at EHDC (meeting/liasing with them regularly) and it was agreed that a member of the Planning Committee should be asked to take on this role – this will be discussed further at the next Planning Committee meeting.

22/10 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items were discussed:

- The difficult financial situation faced by Hampshire County Council for 22-23 was noted - £61.7m from the budget bridging reserve is needed to balance the budget, and this is mainly due to rising prices in adult social care and inflation.
- A Teams meeting to update parishes on progress with Motorbike noise and nuisance has been organised for Friday, 14th January – Cllr. Holmes confirmed she would attend on behalf of Steep P.C.
- The blocked gutter at Ashford Lane has been cleared
- Conversations re. Lutcombe Pond continue – Cllr. Oppenheimer will liaise again with Pete Durnell and feedback at the February P.C. Meeting.
- Ridge Common Lane Potholes – Steep P.C. (and residents) were reminded that the best method of reporting potholes is via the HCC website – the more people that complain, the quicker the result.
- Salt Bins – Cllr. Oppenheimer shared guidance on the use of Salt Bins
- Hedges on Stoner Hill – Cllr. Oppenheimer said he would look into the issue of the very overgrown hedge which is impacting pedestrian access and safety, following a response from HCC that suggests they believe the problem has been resolved.

Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report is appended to these Minutes and can be found on the Parish Council website.

22/11 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Land at Church Road – Cllr. Drew confirmed that he would write to Tim Slaney about the importance of effective community liaison.
- Bins – Residents are reminded not to contain their recycling items in a plastic bag – recycling bins will not be emptied if this is the case.
- Brickyards – The recommendation of the Planning Officer on the latest planning application is awaited. If necessary, Cllr. Drew will request that the case is considered by the Planning Committee.
- The long-term agreement between EHDC and Havant has come to an end – this is a positive move and means that EHDC Officers will be fully focussed on EHDC residents and more responsive.
- EHDC will be able to advise on appropriate funding sources for Village Halls.

22/12

FINANCE

- Cheque payments – The invoice for over £4,000 from EHDC for the recent election will be queried via the Election Team as this amount is double what had been expected!
- The following cheques were approved for January payment:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100427	£58.80	Petersfield Town Council	Dog Bin - Steep Common
100428	£1.80	HMRC	Tax/NI - Clerk
100429	£756.75	Jenny Hollington	Clerk + expenses (printer ink)
	£817.35		

22/13

FOOTPATHS –

- Hedges on Stoner Hill - The pavement and footpath are now badly overgrown, and pedestrian access is very difficult, but correspondence from HCC appears to suggest the situation has been resolved. Cllr. Graham will chase this issue.
- BOAT at Lythe Lane – It was not felt that anything can be done to improve the very muddy patch at the bottom of the Hangers – the drainage grips are currently clear.
- Hangers Way Maintenance – There has been no response from Elliott Rowe at Countryside Services about whether HCC will repair the very muddy part of the Hangers Way on the approach to the Water House.
- The HCC grant application remains to be completed.

22/214

ASHFORD HANGERS –

- Regeneration - There has been no feedback from the Hampshire Rangers/HCC on re-planting the Ashford Hangers – the Chairman will chase a response.
- Lutcombe Pond – As discussed earlier, Cllr. Oppenheimer will continue to liaise with Pete Durnell and feedback further in February.
- Flooding of Ashford Lane – The gully has been cleared and the flood situation is currently resolved, but further work will be required

Chair

22/15

ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- Speed Indicator Device – The meeting with Ian Janes for 7th January to confirm positioning of the posts for the new SID had been very useful. As a result of the conversation, further research will be carried out about the type of display required and whether battery power should be considered.
- Eroding Bank at Steep Hollow – The Clerk confirmed she had spoken to Doug Jones about this issue to find out if SDNPA are able to offer support and he suggests the P.C. write to

JT

- David Boyson in the Heritage Team about the damage to the very old, listed walls. However, SDNPA has no jurisdiction over the verges themselves as they are HCC responsibility. Clerk
- Signage Working Party – The review of parish signage is almost complete with just Stoner Hill still to be covered - a full report will be given at the February meeting. FH
 - Speedwatch – The volunteer speedwatch sessions slowed down over Christmas but are now back up and running. The Group are very appreciative of the District Councillor grant towards the new winter hi-vis jackets.
- 22/16 COMMUNITY PROJECT – PLAY EQUIPMENT AT HAYES COTTAGES – Knowing that most residents of Hayes Cottages are in favour of a swing at Hayes Cottages, following the results of the consultation with residents, Cllr. Graham will continue with his enquiries at EHDC. JG
- 22/17 STEEP COMMON
- Bonfire and Firework Event – Paul Garstin will provide feedback on the 2021 event. at the February meeting.
 - Phase 2 Tree Work – The work to fell the trees affected by Ash dieback is now complete and Sequoia have done a good job. The next step is to think about replanting the area. An article will be written for the newsletter, asking for volunteers who would like to get involved. JG/FH
 - Play Equipment – Sawscape have been given the go-ahead to carry out the necessary repair.
- 22/18 THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE – Events to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee were discussed – suggestions included a clay puddling event at Lutcombe Pond and/or a community party on Steep Common. An article will be written for the newsletter asking for volunteers interested in forming a working party to take suggestions forward to contact the Clerk. FH
- 22/19 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – Cllr. Freddie Holmes will attend the Teams Meeting re Motorbike noise/nuisance on Friday, 14th January, and feedback information at the February P.C. meeting FH
- 22/20 CORRESPONDENCE
- HALC – Request for comments re review of Council membership – This request stems from Clanfield P.C. who are keen to increase the size of the Parish Council but have been put off by the complicated procedure entailed. Steep P.C. had no specific comments at this stage, being unsure of the process.
 - Land at Church Road – Individual Councillors appear to have been targeted with information from the 1st tier legal challenge. The Clerk was asked to circulate the information to all Councillors.
 - Correspondence with the ICO – The Chairman has spent many hours working on the response to the ICO, as have both Cllr. Martin (at least 3 hours) and the Clerk (10 hours) – Unfortunately the resident concerned appears to be unwilling to meet with the Parish Council to discuss how the request could be more focussed. The requests exceed the cost threshold of £450.
- 22/21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be Monday, 7th February 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

4 JANUARY 2022

1. Local Government Finance Settlement

On 16 December 2021 the Government announced only a 1-year settlement for the 2022/23 financial year. We had been expecting a 3-year settlement, so this “provisional settlement” was rather a disappointment. It is very difficult to plan services and capital expenditure when you only have funding clarity for 12 months.

There was some more cash announced in the settlement. But despite additional general funding of £22.9m, the County Council is still in the position of needing to draw £61.7m from the Budget Bridging Reserve to balance the budget next year. This is mainly due to rising prices in the adults’ social care market, together with other inflationary pressures.

The settlement also announced a review of the local government funding formula in 2022, with the reforms being implemented in 2023/24. It seems possible that this funding review will be conducted alongside the County Deal consultation (the County Deal White Paper is scheduled for January).

Whilst the increased funding is welcome, some of it has already been taken into account in meeting our Savings Programme 2023 (SP2023) and the County Council is also facing significant additional pressures which were not known when the original savings target of £80m was set. Of particular concern is the increasing cost of buying adults’ social care in the market which could lead to extra costs of over £35m next year over and above those allowed for in our projections.

The Council is expecting additional staffing costs of £2.3m next year due to the increase in employer national insurance contributions. This is also expected to knock through to increased charges from the Council's contractors along with other inflationary pressures in areas such as energy. All this creates additional uncertainty.

2. Motorbike Noise and Nuisance Parish Forum

Councillors may recall that I chaired a well-attended online Parish Forum on this subject on 25 June 2021. Since then I have met several times with Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones, Damian Hinds MP and Flick Drummond MP.

We want to update Parishes on progress and a Teams meeting to this effect has been scheduled by the PCC for 1300 on Friday 14 January 2022. The main items of progress relate to Average Speed Cameras on the A32 around the Meon Hut and signage which will instruct bikers to keep noise to a minimum. If you would like to attend the meeting on 14 January 2022 you can do so with this link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

3. ReNature - still time to answer the Call for Nature Sites

The South Downs National Park Authority has an ambitious plan to increase the proportion of the National Park which is managed for nature from 25% to 33% by 2030.

A call for sites is still underway. Parishes and Landowners have until 17 January 2022 to make submissions of sites where a wildlife habitat could be created or enhanced. More information is available at this link:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/nature-recovery-information-for-delivery-partners/call-for-nature-sites/>

The SDNPA are looking to identify sites/projects at varying scales, ranging from well-developed project ideas, through to expressions of interest in putting forward a site to explore further.

The SDNPA will work with interested landowners and land managers to identify and develop nature recovery projects by providing specialist advice and help to “match-make” funding opportunities for suitable sites. Due to the rapidly emerging offset market (for both carbon and biodiversity), I have reason to believe that considerable private funding is going to be available in the coming years and so I would strongly encourage Parishes to consider putting in an expression of interest for suitable sites by 17 January.

4. Salt Bins

With some cold weather likely to arrive later this month I thought it would be helpful to share this County guidance on the use of Salt Bins.

Where to use salt:

The salt/grit in the community bins is for use only in the community on public paths, pavements and roads. The salt is not for private use on driveways or garden paths. Bins will not be refilled where people have taken the contents for their own personal use, and Hampshire County Council reserves the right to remove bins where the contents are being continually taken for private use.

Who can use the salt:

Anyone can use the salt to put on the roads or pavements. This can be particularly useful for example, to 'join up' salting from the main road carried out by County Council salting vehicles - to smaller access roads or on the pavements to the local school.

How much salt to use:

One tablespoon of salt (20 grams) is sufficient to treat one square metre of road / pavement surface. Please use the salt carefully – overuse will result in it being used up too quickly.

How the bins get refilled:

To request a salt bin refill please click on this link:

<http://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaydefect/refillsaltbin.aspx>

We will refill the salt bins as soon as reasonably possible, and in bad weather we will endeavour to fill up empty bins on route.

At times of prolonged severe weather, the priority of the winter maintenance teams will be to salt the main roads and we may not be able to refill the salt bins as quickly as at other times.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers