

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Steep Parish Council held on Monday, 6th June 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: District Cllr. Nick Drew,
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 4 members of the public present at the meeting.

| Minute | Item | Action |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| 22/90 | <u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Nick Hurst | |
| 22/91 | <u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the AGM will be circulated as soon as they have been finalised. | |
| 22/92 | <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 were declared. | |
| 22/93 | <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A resident thanked and congratulated all involved in arranging the excellent event on Steep Common to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. She noted however, that the War Memorial and the Village Hall had not been decorated and suggested that in future perhaps neighbours could be asked to help if there are no other volunteers.• A resident noted the posters which have been put up around the village advertising the Public Exhibition on land at Church Road - she asked if the event could be live streamed for those who are unable to attend and requested consideration of holding the second consultation meeting at the weekend when people are not at work. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council are not involved in the arrangements for this event, and suggested she liaise about these issues directly with Stuart Wilson. | |
| 22/94 | <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 (Appendix A). Cllr. Martin added that it is hoped that the new website will soon go live, and this will give residents an opportunity to share their views. | |

Cllr. Duthie suggested that as the Village Hall land has not been included in the consultation material, all consideration of incorporating the Village Hall land into the development of a Village centre should be forgotten. Cllr. Martin confirmed that Stuart Wilson’s decision to only include the SIN land at this first Exhibition is because this is the land his pre-app to SDNPA refers to and this does not rule out the inclusion of the Village Hall land at a later stage.

The Chairman said that Option 6 (which incorporates the Village Hall land) is to be included at a second exhibition in approximately 6-weeks’ time and that residents had a right to see what the development would look like if the land were to be included.

22/95 ASHFORD HANGERS – Cllr. Cook, who has known the Hangers for over 70 years, expressed his disappointment with the current HCC strategy for regeneration in the Hangers and requested the Council’s support in insisting that the Bowl and trees bordering the Shoulder of Mutton be re-planted. Cllr. Oppenheimer explained that he has recently been appointed to the new role as Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Rural Affairs at Hampshire and offered to liaise with the Rangers on this issue to see if there could be a compromise. It was agreed to leave this with Cllr. Oppenheimer to resolve.

22/96 WEBSITE – Cllr. Andrew Martin reported that he has started to research options for a new, interactive website. It was agreed that a small working party should be set up to assist Cllr Martin in further investigation and that Mike Robinson, who has experience in this area should be asked if he would be willing to help and advise along with Cllr. Nick Hurst.

AM
JG
NH

22/97 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) SID Data Findings – Tony Knights, a speedwatch volunteer, explained that he has taken on responsibility for the new speed indicator device (SID) which has been installed on the lamppost outside the Dunhurst entrance on Bell Hill – this involves charging the batteries and moving the device which should only remain in position for 2-weeks (although can be turned to face the other direction) and analysing the data. The SID does not record car registrations but tells drivers how fast they are driving – research shows speed is reduced by approximately 25% by having a SID installed. Data so far shows the average speed to Petersfield is 28 mph with the fastest speed recorded being 60 mph at 10.30 p.m. and the average speed incoming to Steep is 30 mph with the fastest speed being 66 mph recorded at midday on a Friday. The Chairman thanked Tony for taking responsibility for the SID and his fascinating report – Steep P.C. will look forward to a further up-date when the two new sites are in action (we are awaiting the installation of post sockets by Highways, and these are due in the summer).
- (b) Current Road Maintenance Issues – Cllr. Holmes has been in touch with the new traffic engineer for our area, Lisa Davis, about current issues in Steep. Lisa has confirmed that she will visit the village to survey the problems and provide feedback in time for the next meeting.
- (c) Signage Survey – Cllr. Holmes confirmed that there is only a very small part of the parish still to be reviewed. Once the survey is complete, Joe Folland at HCC will decide whether there is any action that Highways can take to remove unnecessary signage, or repair damaged signs.
- (d) Phase 2 – Traffic Management Scheme – Cllr. Holmes confirmed there have been no objections to the proposed new speed restriction on Stoner Hill. The plans for phase 2 include the possibility of a pedestrian crossing close to the Cricketers Pub – however, this requires a safety audit, which the Parish Council will need to fund – Cllr. Oppenheimer offered to cover the cost of this from his County Cllr. grant pot – the Clerk was asked to submit the grant application for the safety audit.
- (e) Village Gates - Designs and costings for the new village gates had been circulated prior to the meeting and were discussed –options included the SDNPA favoured option (wavy lines depicting the Downs) which parishes within the Park are being encouraged to install. Cllr. Holmes confirmed that the SDNPA CiL funding would not cover the cost of the village gates if this wasn’t the chosen design, but that EHDC are holding additional S.106 monies for use towards village gates if it is decided to go with something different. Following discussion, it was agreed to go for option 2 at the Stoner Hill end of the Village, and Option 3 at Bell Hill. Both sets of gates will feature a simple “Welcome to Steep” sign. Joe Folland will be asked to cost these up in both white and dark oak.

Clerk

22/98 FINANCE –

- (a) Governance Statement 21-22 - The Governance Statement had been circulated prior to the meeting and was considered and approved and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman
- (b) Accounting Statements 21-22 – The Accounting Statement had been circulated prior to the meeting and had been checked by the Internal Auditor – the Accounting Statement was approved and signed accordingly.
- (c) Electors Rights – The Clerk undertook to advertise the electors’ rights to view the accounts via the website and village noticeboards from the week beginning 20th June.
- (d) Cheque payments – A list of cheques to be paid had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved as follows:

| Chq No. | | Payee | Service |
|---------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 100457 | £75.00 | T. Morgan | Website up-dates (Feb - April) |
| 100458 | £65.00 | Fair Account | Internal Audit |
| 100459 | £746.90 | Jenny Hollington | Clerk |
| 100460 | £575.34 | Gallagher Ltd | Insurance |
| 100461 | £30.00 | Oliva Jenkinson | Flowers for Suzanne Knights |
| 100462 | £66.64 | June Gurney | APA/AGM refreshments |
| 100463 | £157.50 | Michelle Snow | Locum Clerk - May APA/AGM |
| | £1,716.38 | | |

22/99

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report (Appendix B.) had been circulated prior to the meeting and included the following items:

- New Leader for HCC - Cllr. Rob Humby has been elected as the new Leader and in the reshuffle, Cllr. Oppenheimer is now Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, and Rural Affairs
- Grants available to help with the cost of living – Local groups can apply for grants to help support those in most need. A total of £300,000 is being made available.
- Ukraine Refugee Update – HCC has announced free bus pass travel for all Ukrainian refugees this summer. Communities can also apply for grants of up to £5,000 from HCC for projects to help Ukrainian arrivals to access the support they need.
- Hampshire Records Office – The Records Office in Winchester has been awarded listed status by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.
- Our South Downs – This is a new business initiative from SDNPA and has been created to provide a network for businesses and organisations to connect with each other.

Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report will be made available via the Parish Council website.

22/100

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – Cllr. Nick Drew gave a report on the following items:

- Buses – Cllr. Drew noted the HCC commitment to free bus passes for Ukrainian refugees but pointed out that there are no buses in rural communities and urged Cllr. Oppenheimer to negotiate for better services for villages.
- Platinum Jubilee Party on the Common – Cllr. Drew paid tribute to all those involved in organising the Village Party to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – he felt that it had been an event very much enjoyed across all age groups – especially the tug of war! He had also enjoyed the floral displays in the Church – particularly the contribution by the speedwatch group.
- Grass Cutting Service – Cllr. Drew reported that EHDC are working with the provider to find out why the contract has not been fulfilled following complaints about the lack of grass cutting at Hayes Cottages.
- Grants – Cllr. Drew is keen to support Steep’s grant application for funding towards the swing at Hayes Cottages.

- Ashford Hangers – Cllr. Drew reminded Councillors that EHDC are very supportive of tree planting and always looking for good projects – they may be able to help and/or support the regeneration of the Ashford Hangers.
- Closure of High Street Banks – With the proposed closure of two more high street banks, Cllr. Drew reminded everyone that a paying in service will be provided by the Post Office, which includes the Froxfield Store. He undertook to liaise with Cllr. Holmes in respect of an article for the Petersfield Post.

22/101 STEEP COMMON – The current Playground Inspector is no longer operating, and so alternative quotes had been sought and circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed to go with the Playground Inspection Company who were the cheapest at £73 + VAT.

It was noted that the felled Ash logs seem to be disappearing from the Common – Councillors and residents were asked to keep their eyes open and contact Cllr. Graham if they see or hear anything suspicious.

22/102 FOOTPATHS – Cllr. Martin said that contact has been made with the new Ranger at Countryside Services at HCC about the maintenance work that was discussed over a year ago as there has been no progress with the work so far - HCC had agreed that the Hampshire Monday Group would carry out some of the work. The Clerk explained that she had not had time to submit the grant applications as the process is so lengthy. It was agreed that Cllr. Jenny Martin would contact Chris Budd and request up-dated quotes and Councillors would help gather the information needed for the grant applications (maps/landowner permissions etc).

JM
CD
Chair
Clerk

It was noted that Footpath 13 is very overgrown – relevant landowners will be contacted and/or the Lengthsman asked to cut back the hedges.

JM
Clerk

22/103 COMMUNITY PROJECT – Cllr. Graham confirmed that he submitted the application for a community grant towards a swing at Hayes Cottages.

22/104 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL – There have been no offers of help to keep the planting area at the War Memorial tidy and so it was agreed to consider paying a gardener who could also be asked to help with the Village Hall. It was noted that appropriate insurance might be an obstacle for a small organisation though.

Clerk

22/105 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE – The event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee had been a great success and the Parish Council's thanks were expressed to all those involved in organising the stalls and activities. Cllr. Cook confirmed that any profit made during the afternoon is to be shared between Steep School and the Village Hall.

22/106 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 4th July 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

Steep Parish Council
Report for 6th June 2022 Council Meeting

Land at Church Road Working Group

The working group, comprising councillors Jenny M (chair) Charlotte, Nick Hurst, Freddie and residents Fran Box, Jessica Pocock, Jill Manson, Geoffrey Russell and Peter Cruttenden (secretary) has held a total of eight full meetings.

In addition, Jill and Peter have had discussions with Stuart concerning the forthcoming exhibition on 15th June, at which it was hoped that Option 6, which includes the Village Hall land would be featured. However, there has been a disappointing change of plan.

WDH have now decided to refocus the exhibition on the building layout proposal for the SIN land, which is where the SDNPA process would expect it to be at this early stage. That layout is the last design that the working group saw but without the inclusion of the Village Hall land. They believe that this will give them clearer feedback on the SIN layout, without introducing more debate about the inclusion of the VH land at this time. The wider village option 6 will be mentioned in the material at the exhibition and it is hoped, that after more work, proper visualisations of both options will be featured at the second exhibition.

The working group is disappointed about this but can reluctantly see the sense in it. In the meantime, the group will continue to work on how the wider community can be engaged in this consultation period.

WDH will produce their own leaflet and posters for the exhibition which relieves the PC working group from producing and circulating a leaflet at this time.

Councillor Jenny Martin