

**DRAFT**

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN:** Jim MacDonald

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Steep Parish Council held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
at Steep Village Hall**

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

**In Attendance:** District Cllr. Nick Drew,  
Mrs Michelle Snow (Locum Clerk)

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

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
22/74	<b><u>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:</u></b> Cllr Jim MacDonald was nominated to stand as Chairman to which he agreed but advised that this would be the last year he wished to stand. This was proposed by Cllr Jenny Martin and seconded by Cllr Terry Cook and unanimously agreed. Cllr MacDonald duly signed the acceptance of office.	
22/75	<b><u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:</u></b> Cllr Jenny Martin was nominated to stand as Vice Chairman to which she agreed. This was proposed by Cllr Jim MacDonald and seconded by Cllr Freddie Holmes and unanimously agreed.	
22/76	<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b> – Apologies had been received from Cllr Charlotte Duthie, Cllr. Nick Hurst, County Cllr. Russell Oppenheimer and Mrs Jenny Hollington (Clerk)	
22/77	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b> – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 were approved and signed.	
22/78	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b> – 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.	
22/79	<b><u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u></b> – A resident congratulated the Parish Council on an excellent speaker for the Annual Parish Assembly. Also that the refreshments were wonderful. The Chairman and Councillors offered their thanks to June who had laid on a superb spread at short notice.	
22/80	<b><u>LAND AT CHURCH ROAD</u></b> – A report from the Working Group had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting and copies were available at the meeting (See appendix A.). Cllr. Martin added that there was a meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening (Tuesday the 10 <sup>th</sup> of May) and the attached report was up to date and she had nothing to add to it. Cllr MacDonald thanks Cllr Martin and her team for all their efforts on the project.	
22/81	<b><u>ASHFORD HANGERS</u></b> – The meeting with HCC Rangers had taken place. The following people were in attendance Cllr Jim MacDonald, Cllr Freddie Holmes, Cllr. Charlotte Duthie and Cllr Terry Cook and Mr Steve Peach together with another ranger. 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. This will avoid heavy machinery damaging other tree roots and woodland flora to remove the dead ash. A Councillor expressed	

concern that the woodland would be extremely bare after the ash had died and a proactive approach was required as areas of the Ashford Bowl were visible from the village. Cllr MacDonald explained that the natural regeneration plan was not set in stone, so the plan could change in the future if needed. However after the storms of 1987 natural regeneration occurred so it is hoped that the woodland will continue to regenerate as it has done previously. It was also noted that HCC funds were limited and were not readily available for these types of projects.

22/82 WEBSITE- Cllr Martin explained that the website was old fashioned and not fit for purpose. It was also noted that independent advice was needed and 3 quotes should be sought. It was agreed that Cllr Graham would speak to Mr Mike Robinson for advice as he works in the IT industry. Cllr A Martin advised that Bedales school may be able to provide some assistance. *Cllr A Martin is going to speak to Bedales and Cllr Graham is going to speak to Mr Robinson and both are to report back to the next meeting.* JG/AM

22/83 ROADS AND TRAFFIC – To note the installation of the new Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Bell Hill. The sign has been successfully installed and rotated. The Councillors advised that they have not yet seen the data reports for the SID. *It was agreed that the reports would be presented at the next meeting. Further to the Annual Parish Assembly Cllr F Holmes agreed to follow up these issues with Cllr R Oppenheimer and the new highways engineer.* Clerk/  
FH

22/84 INSURANCE – The Chairman advised that the Clerk was gathering three quotes and the renewal date was the end of May. He added that it was essential that the insurance was in place due to the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Cllr MacDonald proposed that this be delegated to the clerk, with sight being given to two councillors prior to purchase. This was unanimously agreed.

**It was resolved that the Clerk be delegated the power to select and purchase a three year insurance policy from the quotes received.** Clerk

22/85 FINANCE – Agenda items (a)-(d) are to be deferred to the next meeting due to the Clerks absence.

(e) The cheque payments for May were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100452	£50.40	Petersfield Town Council	Dog bin – Steep Common
100453	£381.86	HALC	Annual Fee
100454	£25.98	J Turk	Refund – fixings for speed camera
100455	£39.98	F Holmes	Refund – Adobe design programme
100456	£769.56	Jenny Hollington	Clerk salary
	£1267.78		

22/86 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report (See appendix B.) had been circulated prior to the meeting which included the following items:

- Ukrainian refugees update.
- Street lighting.
- Weed control trials.

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

22/87

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. Drew gave a short report which addressed the planning issues and lack of compliance. There have been no clear reason for the decision not being made regarding the Brickyards application. Cllr Drew has arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive of East Hampshire District Council. It is hoped that this will be an informative meeting which will be held in early June also with Cllr N Hurst and Cllr J MacDonald in attendance. Any case notes and history will be required. *Cllr J MacDonald is to speak to Cllr N Drew to discuss and arrange the details of the meeting.* JM

22/88

STEEP WAR MEMORIAL – An advert was placed in the parish newsletter after the resignation of Suzanne and Tony Knights. The parish council were grateful for their service. It was noted that no one had yet come forward to take over the role.

22/89

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE – Cllr T Cook gave a short report on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event. Plans for the celebratory community event to be held on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June at Steep Common are to include a Tug of War which will see the residents from each street complete against each other. A risk assessment is to be completed and signs advertising the event are to be put up.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 6th June 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.24pm.

Steep Parish Council  
Report for 9 May 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 six full meetings.

Jill and Jenny M met with representatives from the Steep Together group, Genevieve Hayes and Alison Driver, with the purpose of exploring whether there was any common ground between the two groups. It was a positive first meeting, with a shared interest in respect of achieving a centre for the village. However, Steep Together would like to see less houses than that proposed by Wilson Designer Homes. It is hoped that more meetings will follow.

Subsequently, following the working group's meeting with Stuart and his team, Steve, the architect, has worked on Jill's sketched ideas and provided the group with 3 alternative layouts (options 6A,B&C) based on the proposal to develop a centre of the village which includes the village hall land. These were discussed at the sixth working group meeting on 26 April. At this meeting, it was agreed that option 6A was the preferred option. This provides for 5 market houses and 4 alms houses. This option will be presented to the Village Hall trustees as soon as possible for their comments.

The new website, [www.news.steep-pc.gov.uk](http://www.news.steep-pc.gov.uk) is not yet quite up and running. This will provide a channel of information, with a feedback mechanism from residents directly to the Parish Council and shared with Stuart. The latest layout plan will be published here.

The working group is currently working on a small information leaflet, signposting ways in which residents can see the options and comment upon them. This will go to every household. The group is considering how else the latest options can be displayed – perhaps in the village hall porch or the telephone kiosk to ensure those without internet access can be fully involved.

Councillor Jenny Martin

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

**3 MAY 2022**

Due to the local elections taking place in parts of Hampshire this week, the County Council has been in purdah throughout April. As a consequence the County has not made many significant announcements over the last month.

1. Ukraine: Refugee Update

The County Council continues to work with key local partners to enable support and assistance to Ukrainian refugees (guests) arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. The focus remains on conducting home visits and ensuring key information is shared with guests and sponsors efficiently. The total number of visas issued to Ukrainians in Hampshire is now 1,128.

Visits to sponsors' homes continue to be arranged and undertaken at pace across the county and these visits continued over the Easter and bank holiday periods. Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks are undertaken by Hampshire County Council. These checks are required of all sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Collaborative safeguarding processes have also been established between Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary in support of DBS requirements.

Work is ongoing by Hampshire County Council and District and Borough authorities to develop local information for guests to complement the Government's Welcome Pack for Ukrainians arriving in the UK. On 25 April, 'Ukraine Connections' groups commenced in several Hampshire libraries. The sessions offer a welcoming space for Ukrainian guests to meet and find out more about library services, begin to meet others socially, and to find out more about life in their new, temporary home. There is also now a welcome page for Ukrainian guests with helpful links at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine/guests>

## 2. Street Lighting

In my role as Executive Member for Highways at HCC I visited the SSE base at Port Solent last week. Maintenance for all of Hampshire's 133,952 streetlights is undertaken from this depot. I would like to share some interesting facts which I learned during my visit as follows:

- Our contract partner for streetlighting is now called Enerveo. Last year SSE sold their infrastructure arm to a company called Aurelius which is a German investment company. The new company Enerveo will be moving out of the SSE base over the next year. They plan to seek a location in central Hampshire.
- The streetlighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract was signed in 2009 and commenced in 2010. It is a 25-year contract so we are coming up to the midway point later this year. The procurement process for the next contract term will need to commence in six years' time in 2028.
- All streetlights in Hampshire can be controlled remotely through the Mayflower system. This system employs a network of sub-masters around the county which all have SIMs and use the mobile network. These sub-masters then create a wireless network with nodes on other streetlights within 250 metres.
- This flexibility has enabled us to respond to a variety of requests. In Winchester we have reversed part-night lighting at the University's residential halls and in Basingstoke we have maintained night lighting to benefit a woman who is allergic to daylight and so can only leave her house at night.
- Due to the increase in electricity prices, our energy budget at Hampshire has gone up from £3.3m to £7m over the last ten years. This is despite substantial reductions in energy usage. In 2009, streetlighting consumed 53 gigawatts; by 2021 that was down to 21 gigawatts which is a 66% reduction. This has primarily been achieved through LED replacements, dimming and part-night lighting.
- In 2009 there were around 46,000 faults reported per year. There are now approximately 30,000 faults per year. The average repair time is 2.42 days. This repair performance makes Hampshire the fourth best county in the UK.

- Heavy bunting and heavy festive lighting should not be placed on streetlights because it can damage the column integrity. Nothing should be tied at the top or bottom of the light because it might interfere with the operation of the light. Ladders should not be placed against the column. Permission must be sought for the hanging of any items such as the flashing speed limit reminder (SLR) signs. The email address to seek permission is [hampshirepfi@enerveo.com](mailto:hampshirepfi@enerveo.com)

### 3. Weed control trials

HCC will be undertaking a trial of alternative methods of weed control this year. This follows local campaigning on glyphosate concerns.

The trials are being based in the Petersfield area and will commence in May. Regular monitoring will then be undertaken over the following months, through to October.

The weed control methods to be used in the trials are as follows:

- Acetic Acid
- Pelargonic Acid
- Hot Foam
- Burning
- Mechanical Removal
- Electricity

On conclusion of the trials a report will be produced comparing the effectiveness, cost and suitability of the various treatments for use on the wider highway network. The findings in the report will help determine the future approach to weed control.

Environmental factors are a key concern but we must also be mindful that weeds can cause damage to the road infrastructure and they can also look very unsightly so they must be effectively controlled.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**