

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Steep Parish Council held on Monday, 3rd October 2022
at Steep Village Hall**

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

In Attendance: District Cllr. Nick Drew,
Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There were 6 members of the public present at the meeting.

Minute	Item	Action
22/146	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Freddie Holmes and County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer.	
22/147	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5 th September were approved as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed.	
22/148	<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.	
22/149	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A resident noted that Land at Church Road had not been included on the agenda – the Clerk apologised for the oversight - the item will be covered under matters arising.• A resident and member of the Village Hall Trustee working party said she hoped that something positive would come out of the work carried out by the group.• A resident offered to buy some daffodil bulbs for the corner of Mill Lane/Church Road and asked if Bedales students might help plant them? Cllr. Andrew Martin said they would be happy to help. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would reimburse the cost of the bulbs and said he looked forward to seeing the daffodils in the Spring.• A resident sought clarification that the Village Hall would not be closing because of the current financial difficulties. The Chairman confirmed that this was not the case.• A resident expressed disappointment with the second Exhibition by Wilson Designer Homes and said that the plans fell significantly below the recommendations in the Parish Plan.• A resident asked how to access the details of the second Exhibition by Wilson Designer Homes for those who had been unable to attend in person and was pointed to their website for up to date information <u>Land South Of Church Road, Steep (wilsondesigner.co.uk)</u>• A resident asked if the Parish Council had thought about developing a neighbourhood plan as she felt this would be a powerful tool in shaping the community. The Chairman said there are no current plans, but it is something that could be revisited if there was enough support from residents.	AM
22/150	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES:</u>	

Land at Church Road – The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Stuart Wilson about the lack of feedback from the first consultation event - Stuart explained that he has no plans to share the feedback directly with the Parish Council or residents - however, the responses will feed into his pre application to SDNPA. Some disappointment was expressed as it was felt there should be more feedback for residents.

In response to a query about the number and ownership of the affordable homes – the Chairman noted that with a proposal for 5 market homes, 4 affordable homes are above the national quota. It is understood that Eames will have first refusal to buy and manage the properties to ensure the houses remain in perpetuity for village residents – these new homes are intended for young families unlike the Alms houses by Steep School which are for elderly residents.

22/151 VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEE WORKING GROUP REPORT - A report from the Working Group had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting and was read out to the meeting (Appendix A).

The Trustees had been pleased with the turnout at the consultation events (approximately 80 residents) but noted that this is less than 10% of the adult population of the village. The quality and richness of the feedback had been excellent with most respondents encouraging the Trustees to move forward to the next stage. It is intended to compile a full analysis of the responses received for the Trustees as well as a summary report for residents. The Trustees will now continue with plans to appoint a new Hall Manager and will pass on residents' suggestions about the hall operations made at the first consultation event. The Chairman expressed the Parish Council's thanks to the working group for their work and to residents who took the time to respond.

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

22/152 FEEDBACK FROM EHDC PLANNING COMMITTEE – CHANGE OF CONDITION AT THE BRICKYARDS – Cllr. Nick Drew reported that despite many objections, the Committee had approved the change of condition. He feared that this may cause continued infringement issues and requested that residents remain vigilant and report any problems to EHDC enforcement team immediately. Hampshire Highways did not object to the application – the Chairman said he would speak to the County Councillor to ensure that the road is appropriately monitored and strengthened to cope with additional traffic to the Industrial Estate.

Chair

22/153 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Neighbourhood Planning – There is a huge cost to developing a Neighbourhood Plan – both financially (although grants are available) and in people's time.
- Consultation – Cllr. Drew said he was impressed with the level of engagement in Steep and residents getting involved in parish matters.
- Grant funding for play equipment – Cllr. Drew will continue to engage with officers re feedback on the unsuccessful grant application and to help seek an alternative source of funding.
- Grass collections have resumed, and four additional glass recycling centres are to be set up within East Hants.
- Leaf sweeping – Cllr. Drew requested details of the lanes which require sweeping (to be discussed later on the agenda)
- Remembrance Day – Cllr. Drew hopes to be able to attend the service at the War Memorial and will lay a wreath on behalf of EHDC.

22/154 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT - Cllr. Oppenheimer's monthly report (Appendix B.) had been circulated prior to the meeting and in his absence was discussed briefly – Cllr. Oppenheimer's report is short this month due to the mourning period following the death of the Queen.

- Cllr. Oppenheimer had attended the Proclamation of the King in Winchester on Sunday, 11th September and said it had been a memorable occasion.
- HCC has announced that it will pay an extra £200 per month to residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government’s Homes for Ukraine Scheme.
- SDNPA/BOATS – The SDNPA will discuss Byways Open to All Traffic at its meeting on Thursday, 20th October and it is suggested that individual councils should write to the Chairman of SDNPA ahead of the meeting – Cllr. Jenny Martin agreed to write on behalf of Steep P.C.

JM

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

- 22/155 ASHFORD HANGERS – Councillor Oppenheimer has not received feedback from SDNPA and Natural England in respect of the repair of Lutcombe Pond yet.

The Chairman has chased Pete Durnell about arranging another meeting to discuss the problem of the dead Ash trees - members of the Council are not happy with the “wait and see” approach. It is hoped to arrange the meeting for some time in October.

Chair
TC/CD

- 22/156 WEBSITE – Two quotes have been received and another is due imminently. Mike Robinson has agreed to contribute his expertise to the working party comparing proposals and prices. A recommendation will be made to the Council at the November meeting.

JG/
Chair

- 22/157 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- Phase 2 Traffic Management Scheme – The speedwatch team has agreed to gather new data from the spot outside Owen’s Cycles and provide feedback of average speed to Hampshire (to enable consideration of a pedestrian crossing within the CFI).
- Road Maintenance Issues - Jetting to clear the blocked gullies in Mill Lane and Elmwood Lane is due to take place at the end of October.
- Low hanging branches – There have been reports of low hanging branches and overgrown hedges causing problems for larger farm vehicles – a reminder of landowner responsibilities will be included within the P.C. monthly newsletter report. If problems are not addressed, issues will be reported to Hampshire Highways.
- Leaf Sweeping Priorities – These were agreed as follows: Steep Hollow, Bushy Hill/Mill Lane, Ashford Lane, Rockpitt’s Hollow.

JG

Clerk

- 22/158 FINANCE –

- Correspondence from SAAA - The correspondence about the option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements had been looked at in more detail and it was agreed that it would be best to continue with the current arrangement.
- Bank Reconciliation – The September bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.
- Cheques for October payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100475	£6,970.00	Chris Budd	Footpath repair work
100476	£29.54	Steve Cook	War Memorial plants
100477	£1,500.00	Hart Landscaping & Tree Services Ltd	Lengthsman August & September
100478	£746.90	Jenny Hollington	Clerk
	£9,246.44		

Steep Parish Council Meeting – 03.10.2022

Councillors were reminded that the budget/precept 23-24 will be discussed at the November meeting – any items for consideration within the budget should be sent to the Clerk. Consideration of an annual grant for the Village Hall will be discussed further with the Internal Auditor at the interim audit in November. The Finance Committee will get together in the next few weeks to put together a budget proposal.

Finance
Comm.

- 22/159 STEEP COMMON – Arrangements for the annual bonfire and firework display on Saturday, 5th November were discussed. All agreed that rather than seek approval for an increase in numbers from Hiscox Insurance, attendance should be limited to 1000 as per previous years. The Clerk will follow up on the Risk Assessment with the Bonfire Committee. Notes requesting that residents do not park in Church Road, from the entrance to Bedales to the Common, to enable the road to be kept clear in case of emergency, will be sent out earlier this year. Cllr. Andrew Martin will send a note around School staff to remind them about this.
- 22/160 FOOTPATHS – Bridleway 31 has become difficult to pass in places – Cllr. Jenny Martin has notified the HCC Rangers of the issue.
- 22/161 COMMUNITY PROJECT – Steep Parish Council was not successful in securing community grant funding from EHDC towards the swing and picnic table at Hayes Cottage – the Chairman will write to seek feedback as to why this was. The SWR grant funding opportunity has now closed. Cllr. Drew will liaise with Cllr. Graham about alternative sources of funding
- 22/162 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL – As per previous years, the Act of Remembrance will be marked by a short service at the War Memorial at 11.00 a.m. on Friday, 11th November – all are very welcome to attend. Cllr. Jenny Martin will lay the wreath on behalf of Steep P.C. and Cllr. Cook will monitor traffic on the day. Cllr. Andrew Martin will chase the Music department at Bedales to ensure there is a bugler. Refreshments will be organised (hopefully by the new Hall Manager) following the Service.
- 22/163 VACANCY FOR A PARISH CLERK – The Parish Clerk vacancy will be advertised on the website, in the November newsletter and via the parish clerk network as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is Friday, 11th November, with interviews being held on Monday, 24th November – Cllrs. Jenny Martin and Duthie will assist the Chairman with the interview process.
- 22/164 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
- EHAP&TC – The meeting due to be held on 20th October has had to be postponed because it clashes with the date of the HALC AGM
 - HALC AGM – Cllr. Duthie volunteered to attend the AGM on 20th October. The information about the proposed changes to the Articles of the Association was noted.
- 22/165 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 7th November 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

Clerk/
AM

Chair
JG

JM/
TC
Clerk

JM/CD
Chair

CD

The meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

Report of the trustee working group to the Parish Council

27th September 2022

Members of the working group: Jenny Martin, Freddie Holmes, Andrew Martin, Fran Box, Peter Cruttenden and Jill Manson

The Events

The group was very pleased with the running of the two consultation events earlier in September. The publicity for the events was as extensive as for any parish consultation and the attendance, a total of 80, could be considered as satisfactory. It compares well with attendance at the Wilson Designer Homes consultation carried out in June. It does, however, represent a small proportion of the adult population of Steep (less than 10%) and serves as a reminder that the PC has a responsibility to communicate as fully as possible with everyone.

There was a sociable feel in the hall, largely due to the excellent array of refreshments provided by June. There were some quite 'robust' discussions also which reflect the importance of the topic to residents.

Feedback

53 of those who attended completed feedback forms on the day and 30 chose to view the material online and submit their feedback in that way. The quality and richness of the feedback was particularly pleasing with a predominance of resident reactions encouraging the trustees to progress the ideas to the next stage. It has provided the working group, and subsequently the trustees, with a large number of important comments and suggestions. Positive comments seemed to reflect a real degree of interest and excitement about the possibilities whilst also posing questions about the need for a business plan and the challenge of fund raising. Not surprisingly, parking (quantity, location, abled/disabled) and traffic both within the hall land, the SIN development and in Church Road also figured largely in the comments.

The working group continues to work on providing trustees with a complete analysis of all the information contained in the comments which it is hoped will be completed by 5th October. Then work will begin on developing a draft report to the community.

What next?

Trustees will complete the appointment of the new hall manager and following the fuller analysis, pass on the many helpful suggestions about the operation of the hall

Trustees noted that there is likely to be delay of a several weeks now until there is greater clarity on the Steep in Need development. However, they agreed at their recent meeting that

- one or two members of the working group will have an informal, fact-finding discussion with a planning consultant
- That trustees will consider who in the village might be able to assist with the next stages of the work
- To meet again on 17/10

Jenny Martin

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

3 OCTOBER 2022

1. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



September was a month of mourning for our late Queen “of blessed and glorious memory”. For most of us Queen Elizabeth was the constant in our lives. A source of inspiration, providing comfort in times of strife and signifying unity in times of division.

Here in Hampshire, we felt Her Majesty's loss all the more keenly. Hampshire was always close to Her Majesty's heart: Hampshire was the place where she spent her honeymoon and the County to which she came most often to visit Her Armed Forces. All Hampshire County Council announcements were put on hold in September which naturally means that this report is a bit shorter than normal.

I attended the Proclamation of the King in Winchester on Sunday 11 September read by the High Sheriff of Hampshire Lady Edwina Grosvenor. Behind the High Sheriff is the King's representative: the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Nigel Atkinson (who is a resident of Petersfield Hangers Division). On the right is HCC Leader Cllr Rob Humby. We all sang God Save the King for the first time.



The proclamation was a memorable occasion and I know that several Parishes carried out their own proclamations which I am sure will also live long in the memory – as will the joyful Platinum Jubilee celebrations held by Parishes during the Summer.

2. HCC adds £200 top-up to Homes for Ukraine hosts

I am pleased to report that Hampshire County Council has announced that it will be paying an extra £200 per month to Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

The Government has set host payments at £350 per accommodation (tax free). We want to go higher than this to reflect both the important contribution Hampshire hosts are making to this significant humanitarian effort, as well as the current challenges many may be facing, in terms of cost-of-living pressures. We feel this is the fair and right thing to do, particularly over the winter months.

The county of Hampshire has welcomed the third highest number of Ukrainian nationals in England with over 1,100 families now settled here under the national scheme.

3. SDNPA set to discuss BOATs

The SDNPA will discuss Byways Open to All Traffic at its meeting on Thursday 20 October 2022. The Decision Paper will be published on the southdowns.gov.uk website around 10 days before that meeting. Many Parish Councils in Petersfield Hangers have already written powerfully to the Chairman of the SDNPA. A further communication in the build-up to the meeting could be worth considering.

In this very special part of the South Downs National Park, our tranquillity, biodiversity, air quality, safety and basic access to byways are routinely compromised by sports bikers and 4x4 drivers who are damaging the green infrastructure of our park.

I am no longer a member of the SDNPA and I will not attend the meeting as I do not wish to create any appearance of conflict with my HCC responsibilities as Executive Member for Countryside, Culture and Communities. I sincerely hope that the Authority will decide to get involved in this issue and bring their expertise to bear on finding long-term solutions.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers