

STEEP ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2019

DRAFT

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

MINUTES OF THE STEEP ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – TUESDAY, 7TH MAY 2019 AT 7.00 P.M. AT STEEP SCHOOL

PRESENT:

Jim MacDonald (in the Chair)	Simon Bridger	Terry Cook
Nick Hurst	Chris Laycock	Kate Ashfield
Jeff Graham		

IN ATTENDANCE: Nick Drew - District Councillor
Russell Oppenheimer – County Councillor
Jenny Hollington - Clerk

There were approximately 26 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Laura Deane (SDNPA Ranger) and Councillors, Peter Cruttenden and Jenny Martin

APM19/01 The Chairman explained that the speaker, Laura Deane, a Ranger with SDNPA, who had been going to talk to residents about local wildlife projects, had unfortunately been taken ill during the day and was unable to attend the meeting. Due to the late notice, it had been impossible to organise a replacement representative from SDNPA.

At extremely short notice, Rob Heale, the new landlord of the Cricketers Pub was introduced to residents – he explained that he has been tasked with turning the pub around by the owners (Rob already runs another successful pub in the Chichester area). Rob said he looked forward to meeting residents in the coming months and to helping make the Cricketers more of a community focussed pub.

APM19/02 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 21st May 2018 were approved as an accurate record and signed accordingly.

APM19/03 **Chairman’s Report** – Jim MacDonald, Chairman of Steep Parish Council, thanked all members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for their support and hard work over the year, and highlighted individual roles and responsibilities to members of the public present. He also thanked County and District Councillors Russell Oppenheimer and Nick Drew who attend most Parish Council meetings and diligently pursue issues on behalf of Steep.

One of the main Parish Council focuses for the past few years has been the ever-increasing traffic through the village which has resulted in the completion of the first phase of traffic measures on Stoner Hill and the formation of the Steep Speedwatch team. A huge thank you was given to team and especially to Mike Robinson who has been leading and co-ordinating the volunteers. Steep P.C. continue to work on Phase 2 of the Traffic Management Scheme in conjunction with HCC.

The Chairman also expressed his thanks to Ray Street, who has managed the Parish Council website, and Drake Hocking, the Parish Tree Warden - both men have been in their respective roles for approximately 10-years but are now stepping down after having given generously of their time and expertise. Teresa Benson-Colpi has taken over the role of Tree Warden and the Parish Council look forward to working with her in the months to come.

The War Memorial is now being lovingly tended by Tony and Suzanne Knight for which the Parish Council is again hugely grateful – the War Memorial has been looking lovely since they took it over.

The Chairman’s full report is appended to these Minutes for info.

APM19/04 **County Councillor’s Report**

Russell Oppenheimer introduced himself and explained that he works closely with members of Steep P.C. He had been pleased to provide a grant to support the first phase of traffic calming measures and will also contribute to the second phase. More importantly he is currently working with Hampshire Highways to move the 30 mph

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limit up the hill to the Island which should make a huge improvement. He has also provided financial support to the Steep and Stroud Newsletter and the Steep History Group. Other local projects which Russell has been closely involved with include the annual litter and fly tipping clean up on Stoner Hill, as well as working to ensure that HCC support is available for improvements to Lutcombe Pond.

On a more general nature, Russell spoke about the South Downs Local Plan, which is now very close to being adopted and set out HCC highlights from the past year. The County Councillor's full report is appended to these Minutes for information.

In response to a query from a member of the public about dangerous parking in Petersfield and car park charges, Russell explained that EHDC is responsible for parking charges and enforcement. However, he agreed there is a need for joined up thinking across the two authorities.

APM19/05 **District Councillor's Report** - Nick Drew thanked residents for their support in the recent elections – he said it had been a close-run thing and asked that anyone with concerns approach him directly to see where he could improve his representation. Issues that had been raised during his parish walkabouts included queries about affordable housing and recycling improvements. In response to the query about parking above, Nick Drew said he has met with the Head of Parking whom he felt he was not addressing residents' concerns.

Nick said that over the previous year he has been pleased to work closely with Steep Parish Council and had provided financial support towards footpath maintenance, and local projects including the Shakespeare Festival, Steep Cricket Club and the Rosemary Foundation (who help terminally ill people in the area). He would be supporting Steep P.C. in Phase 2 of the traffic management scheme in the coming year.

APM19/06 **Finance Report** - A summary of the accounts for the year ended 31.3.19 was circulated at the meeting and was discussed. The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council had kept the precept at £14,000 which was extremely low compared to other local parishes and worked hard to obtain grants to support projects within the parish. This year £5,662 S.106 monies (developer's contributions) had been received towards the Speedwatch equipment, improvements to the Coach Road, and the new picnic tables on Steep Common. The Parish Council had given grants totalling £800 towards the Citizens Advice Bureau, the parish newsletter, Steep History Group and the annual Shakespeare Festival.

The financial summary for 18-19 is appended to the minutes for information.

APM19/07 **Public Forum** – Members of the public were invited to raise any issues:

- Parking – A resident queried when results of the EHDC parking survey would be available? Cllr. Drew will follow up and liaise with the P.C. and resident.
- I.T. – It was noted that the Parish Council has up-graded their e-mail system to comply with new data legislation (at increased cost) and queried why HCC are no longer able to provide Councils with @hants.gov.uk e-mail addresses? Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that he has asked HCC to work with HALC to resolve this issue.

Following the public forum, members of the public were invited to join the Parish Council for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.