

**DRAFT**

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN:** Jim MacDonald

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Terry Cook Chris Laycock  
 Jeff Graham Nick Hurst Jenny Martin  
 Simon Bridger

**In Attendance:** Russell Oppenheimer, County Councillor  
 Nick Drew, District Councillor  
 Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 2 members of the public present.

| <b>Minute</b> | <b>Item</b>  | <b>Action</b>        |
|---------------|--|----------------------|
| 19/161        | <u>APOLOGIES</u> – Cllrs. Peter Cruttenden and Kate Ashfield   |                      |
| 19/162        | <u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved and signed.  |                      |
| 19/163        | <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare an interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.  |                      |
| 19/164        | <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The format of the community up-date meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November and organisations to be present were queried. The Chairman explained that the format is a work in progress, but a presentation is intended, setting out the facts and history of the site, and there will also be an opportunity for residents to ask any questions. Because the outcome of the High Court case is not known, it isn't possible to say whether representatives of SIN or SDNPA will be in attendance.</li> <li>• A resident said she felt that Steep in Need Trustees were “conspicuous by their absence” – the Chairman explained that, as mentioned above, SIN Trustees are waiting to hear the outcome of the legal challenge.</li> </ul>  |                      |
| 19/165        | <u>FEEDBACK FROM THE P.C. MEETING HELD IN STEEP MARSH</u> – The Parish Council are grateful once again to Haste for allowing the use of their meeting room for the meeting in Steep Marsh. The meeting had been well attended and several issues had been raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition of bollards – Cllr. Laycock will report via hants.gov.uk</li> <li>• New bench – The Clerk was asked to investigate further as the old bench was given in memory of Sir Alec Guinness and it may be possible to refurbish, rather than to buy new.</li> <li>• New noticeboard – This will be installed on the grass verge outside Kildonan.</li> <li>• Use of Old Noticeboard - A resident has asked if he can use the old noticeboard as a “littlefreelibrary” - the P.C. think this sounds a very good idea and welcomed a sketch plan showing how this would be achieved.</li> <li>• Passing Places – Cllr. Oppenheimer will up-date on this item within his report.</li> </ul> | CL<br>Clerk<br>Clerk |
| 19/166        | <u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</u> - Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that he has liaised with the   |                      |

Highways Operations Director directly in respect of the condition of the passing places in Steep Marsh and an application has been made for this issue to be addressed by the Planned Maintenance Programme. In the meantime, the Petersfield Highways depot have been asked to inspect and maintain the lanes and passing places.

Cllr. Oppenheimer's monthly report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the following items highlighted –

- Mobile Phone Coverage – A funding boost has been promised by Government which should address “hot spots”
- Mental Health – HCC is the latest signatory to Public Health England's campaign to improve the nation's mental wellbeing.
- Pocket Parks Funding – Grants of up to £15,000 are available for new pocket parks. However, applications must be supported by a Local Authority.

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

19/167 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. Drew said he had received correspondence from a Steep Marsh resident who'd been involved in a riding accident – he has asked EHDC officers what education is available for drivers, e.g. road signage. He wished the resident concerned a speedy recovery. Cllr. Drew also reported on the following:

- EHDC Local Plan – This is currently under review
- Tree Warden Training – A training session is being organised by EHDC - Cllr. Drew will forward information re date/time etc
- TAG Farnborough – Proposed increases to flight patterns at Farnborough are to go ahead and this is a concern to many East Hants parishes. Cllr. Drew will feed back any residents concerns to Damien Hinds.

19/168 COMMUNITY UP-DATE MEETING – 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – STEEP VILLAGE HALL – As mentioned under public comment, it is intended to give a presentation setting out the history of the Church Road site at the start of the meeting. This will be followed by a break for refreshments, at which point residents' questions will be written down and collated. After the break, the Parish Council will try to answer as many of the questions as possible. If there are questions the P.C. are unable to answer, these will be forwarded to the appropriate organisation and responses posted via the Parish Council website as soon as possible after the event ([www.steep-pc.gov.uk](http://www.steep-pc.gov.uk)). A3 posters will be displayed around the village to ensure the event is well advertised.

19/169 FINANCE

- (a) Bank Reconciliation - The September and October bank reconciliations had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved and signed
- (b) Actual to Budget Figures (April – October) had been circulated prior to the meeting and variances discussed as follows:

- Tree work on the Common still to be carried out (£3000 budgeted)
- Phase 2 Traffic Management – The CFI application has been submitted but nothing heard from HCC in respect of costs (£4000 budgeted for this financial year but project will probably fall into 20-21)
- Website –The cost of setting up the new Microsoft Office 365 e-mail and storage system was noted. Website management costs have also increased since Ray Street retired.
- The Parish Council election was uncontested and therefore costs were less than

anticipated

- (c) Budget and Precept 2020-21 – The Clerk will look at this in detail and circulate proposals for discussion and approval at the December meeting
- (d) Cheque payments - The following cheques were approved for November payment:

| Chq No. |           | Payee                | Service                        |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 100283  |           | Royal British Legion | Remembrance Day Wreath         |
| 100284  | £75.00    | Thomas Morgan        | Website management (Aug-Oct)   |
| 100285  | £1,423.50 | Frank & Bill         | Lengthsmen - October           |
| 100286  | £715.05   | J. Hollington        | Clerk - Oct (less overpayment) |
| Total : | £2,213.55 |                      |                                |

19/170 STEEP COMMON –

- (a) Repair of the bench - The Chairman confirmed that local resident, Adrian Hill, has repaired the bench free of charge, for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful. Adrian suggested that pea shingle could be used to cover the rather muddy patch under the seat – Cllr. Cook said he would be happy to do this. TC
- (b) Ash Die-Back – Cllr. Cook will liaise with Alex Stickley about insurance required for the tree work. Alternative quotes for the work will also be sought and discussed at the December meeting. Cllr. Drew said that EHDC may be able to provide trees to replace those being cut down under their Tree Programme. TC
- (c) Fence Repair – Cllr Graeme will seek quotes for the repair of the fence to be discussed at the December meeting. Consideration will also be given to a “Turning Only” sign because people still park in the gate area despite the “No Parking” signage. JG

19/171 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Ridge Common Lane – Despite Cllr. Laycock’s chasing there has still been no feedback from Hampshire Highways about the area which is subsiding. Cllr. Oppenheimer will look into this on behalf of the P.C.
- (b) CFI – Phase 2 Traffic Management, Stoner Hill/Bell Hill – The CFI application has been submitted and detailed drawings and costings for the proposals will now be worked up by the Highways Engineer. It is hoped that improvements to sight lines at Ashford Lane, the BOAT and Island can be prioritised as these should be easily achievable and relatively cheap for Highways to carry out.
- (c) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – The CFI application includes a survey of the road for potential sites for a speed indicator device to be installed. Cllr. Laycock has been researching costs and models and has been in contact with Langrish Parish Council who have recently installed a new SID on the A272. Cllr. Laycock will follow up with quotes for the December meeting. Cllr. Graeme suggested “speedwatch operate here” signage may also be appropriate. Examples and costs of these will be discussed further at the December meeting. Concern was expressed about excess signage cluttering the road - care will need to be taken to get the balance right. CL  
JG

19/172 FOOTPATHS

**Footpath 20** – There is no up-date on whether a Small Grant Scheme application can be submitted for this work, as Adam Macey, HCC RoW, has been on Jury Service. Because of the very heavy rain over the last few weeks, it may now be necessary to wait until the Spring to take this forward.

It was noted that a new group of Volunteers, the Hampshire Monday Group, have carried out footpath improvement work on BOAT 32 and installed the new bench at Lutcombe Pond. The

Clerk

group are well-trained, and known volunteers, and it was suggested that Steep P.C. should also liaise with the Group to see if their services could be utilized to help with this path. JM

19/173 TREE WARDEN – An expression of interest has been received. However, because the advert has been included in the November Newsletter, the Parish Council feel it appropriate to wait a few weeks to see if anyone else is interested, before responding.

19/174 REMEMBRANCE DAY – Arrangements are all in place for the short service at the War Memorial on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 a.m., and for coffee and cake at the Village Hall afterwards. Cllr. Ashfield will be laying the wreath on behalf of the Parish Clerk KA

19/175 MEETINGS ATTENDED

- SDNPA Parish Workshop – Cllr. Graeme attended on behalf of Steep P.C. – he felt that it had been a very interesting evening, full of information on the Local Plan and how it is being implemented. Slides are due to be circulated to all parishes for information shortly.

19/176 CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail correspondence regarding the proposed hedge cutting on Stoner Hill – Cllr. Laycock will meet with the resident concerned. CL
- SDNPA Consultation – Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – Cllr. Graeme had been asked to look at this in more detail - he will circulate his thoughts for consideration. JG
- SDNPA – Review of Management Plan – The Chairman has reviewed the Plan which he felt is well written and researched.

19/177 PRESS OFFICER UP-DATE – In the absence of Cllr. Ashfield, the Clerk was asked to write a short report for the newsletter covering the items discussed at the meeting. Clerk

19/178 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

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

**1 NOVEMBER 2019**

1. Mobile phone coverage receives funding boost

On 25 October 2019 the Government announced that it has agreed a £1bn plan with the UK's four main mobile phone companies to create a "shared rural network" which should banish areas of poor network coverage in rural areas. The agreement is badly needed to address our own "not-spots" and is the outcome of years of pressure from rural local authorities including HCC and local business groups. The plan should provide a practical route to secure 95% 4G coverage by 2025. The four networks plan to contribute a total of £530m with the government supporting this with another £500m once the deal is finalised in the New Year. This is welcome news but we will need to keep up the pressure a little longer to make sure that the promised improvements are delivered.

2. Hampshire signs Mental Health concordat

Hampshire County Council has announced that it is the latest signatory to Public Health England's campaign to improve the nation's mental wellbeing. This is known as the **Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health** initiative. By becoming a signatory, organisations commit to developing an action plan to prevent mental ill health and promote wellbeing locally. The Hampshire action plan will build on some of the comprehensive work already being undertaken to support Hampshire residents with their mental wellbeing. This includes:

3. New round of Pocket Parks funding announced

On 27 October 2019 the Government announced a new round of funding for pocket parks. Grants of up to £15,000 are available for new pocket parks from a total fund of £1.35m. Applications must be supported by a Local Authority who can apply to the fund on behalf of Parish Councils.

Pocket parks are considered to be small areas of inviting public green space where people can relax, exercise, socialise and play. They must be openly accessible for the communities they will serve, and ideally offer open access for anyone wishing to use them. The formal definition of a Pocket Park is:

“a piece of land of up to 0.4 hectares (many are around 0.02 hectares, the size of a tennis court) which may already be under grass but which is unused, undeveloped or derelict”.

They can be both natural and more formal in character (and perhaps ideally a blend of both) on the basis that they either will provide a green open space that also offers habitat opportunities and opportunities for people to connect with nature. The prospectus can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pocket-parks-helping-communities-transform-unloved-neglected-or-derelict-areas-into-new-green-spaces>

#### 4. Hampshire Rural Forum

The Hampshire Rural Forum brings together people with an interest in rural Hampshire. It was re-established in June 2016 and already has 54 organisations, groups and individuals signed up as members. The Forum works to raise awareness and understanding of rural issues and find solutions. The Forum is open to anyone with an interest in rural Hampshire – simply email [joanna.dixon@actionhampshire.org](mailto:joanna.dixon@actionhampshire.org) to be added to the Forum’s mailing list.

The next “Hot Topic Discussion” from the HRF is about “Putting the rural into Hampshire’s Local Industrial Strategy”. It takes place from 11.00 -13.00 on Tuesday 12 November at South Wonston Village Hall. The Enterprise M3 LEP is working with Central Government to produce a Local Industrial Strategy for Hampshire - visions for clean growth, inclusive prosperity and productivity for Hampshire (and Surrey).

The rural perspective is critical to the success of these strategies which is why Hampshire Rural Forum has organised this session. This is a great opportunity

for us all to contribute, share and discuss our ideas with representatives of the LEPs. Please let Jo Dixon know at the above email address if you would like to attend.

#### 5. South Downs National Park Rangers: Keeping rural crafts alive

Keeping traditional rural crafts alive is key to conserving our cultural heritage. In the case of hedgelaying it can be of immense benefit to wildlife too. The South Downs National Park Authority's **Western Area Ranger Team**, along with the Western area Volunteer Ranger Service and two work experience students have spent the last week and a half creating a new 100m long hedge at Hatchmoor Farm which is between Liss and Hawkley.



Stems of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and coppiced Hazel were 'pleached' – a hedgelaying term to describe a partial cut made through the base of the stem. This then allows the stem 'pleacher' to be bent over, whilst still attached, to form a low dense living hedge that acts as a stockproof barrier and a safe haven for birds and small mammals.

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