

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Mrs. Caroline Robinson

**CLERK:** Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Jenny Martin (in the Chair)  
Graham Banks  
Charles Gibson

Terry Cook  
Simon Bridger  
Nick Hurst

In Attendance: Tony Struthers and Trevor Hines (Steep Parish Plan Group)  
Phyllida Barnes (Queen's Coronation Sub-Committee)  
Clerk - Jenny Hollington

There were no members of the Public present.

12/40 APOLOGIES: - Cllrs. Caroline Robinson, Suzie Openshaw and Jim MacDonald

12/41 MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

12/42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

12/43 PUBLIC COMMENT – No comments received.

12/44 STEEP PARISH PLAN

Tony Struthers and Trevor Hines (Chair and Treasurer of the Parish Plan Group) were in attendance to give a brief up-date on the position of the Parish Plan and to ask for consideration to be given to a request for an additional grant towards publication. Accounts had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and a paper outlining the Group's decisions on publication were circulated. Currently there is a shortfall of £994 - a grant application to the Hare of Steep Fund has been turned down and a response is awaited from the South Downs National Park Association. Contributions have so far been received from EHDC, HCC, Steep P.C. and Bedales School. Fund-raising within the Village (e.g. a Quiz Night) is a consideration.

The Clerk was asked to record that the Parish Council is indebted to Tony for his work in leading the Parish Plan Group over the past 3-years, during which time a tremendous amount of excellent work and research has gone into the Parish Plan.

Councillors considered the request for additional funding in conjunction with budget proposals for 2012/13. Cllrs. Cook and Banks declared an interest (as members of the Parish Plan Group). The remaining Councillors agreed that if possible, a significant further contribution should be made – the Parish Plan is a one-off document that will serve the community for many years to come. It was felt that fundraising was a good idea and would re-engage the Village but this should not preclude a financial contribution from the Council.

Cllr. Gibson proposed that a grant of £500 should be made towards publication of the Parish Plan, Cllr. Bridger seconded this proposal – AGREED 4 in favour.

12/45 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

In the absence of Cllr. MacDonald, Mrs. Phyllida Barnes, attended the meeting to outline the sub-committee's plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee:

It was agreed that

- The Party should be held on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June on Steep Common (and there would be no road closure of Church Road);
- Marquees will be set up in case of bad weather;
- Cllr Banks will make enquiries of the Chef at Bedales with regard to providing a Hog Roast;
- Cllr Cook and his wife will be in charge of games;
- No budget is required from the Parish Council as food will be donated/purchased by those attending;

12/46 DIAMOND JUBILEE THEMED FLOWER BOX/HANGING BASKET COMPETITION

Consideration was given to this proposal – it was suggested that if this idea is to be successful, the School will need to be on board. It was therefore AGREED that Cllr. Martin should approach the School and gauge their response.

12/47 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SDNP 53288	<b>2-Storey extension to side, garage, carport/log store to front and revised parking for 3 cars</b>	2 Aldersnapp Cottage, Lythe Lane, Steep GU32 1AT	No Objection (with comment)
SDNP 21901/006	<b>Variation of condition 6 of outline permission 21901/003 (allowed on appeal) – to omit drawing no. 101, and replace with drawing no. A.1686/91 Revision A (re-siting of driveway)</b>	Weatherbury, Stoner Hill, Steep GU32 1AG.	No Objection
SDNP/	<b>Replacement of 3 antenna, addition of 600mm dish and associated ancillary work</b>	Orange Site HAM 0275, Ridge Common Lane, Steep.	No Objection
SDNP 54045/001	<b>Detached wooden garden building to rear</b>	Melstock Farm Barn, Sandsbury Lane, Steep GU32 1AS	No Objection

A letter received from the South Downs National Park Authority Planning Committee regarding SDNP/24385/010 – Steep Marsh Farm, 4 affordable dwellings and 2 market dwellings following demolition of farm building which is to be considered at their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April, was discussed. It was suggested that a representative of the Parish Council should attend and AGREED that Cllr. MacDonald would be asked to attend if possible. If he is unavailable, Cllr. Gibson will attend and speak on behalf of the Parish Council.

12/48 FINANCE

The following cheques were approved

100169	£114.84	Mill Farm Trees (Steep Common)
100170	£72.00	Hampshire ALC (Cllr Training sessions)
100171	££284.00	Hampshire ALC (Affiliation Fees)

It was noted that £300 had been received from EHHBAG in payment of the hire of the Excavator for Bridleway 16. The cost of closing the Bridleway had been underestimated by HCC and therefore a small shortfall of approximately £50 has been covered by the Parish Council.

Consistency of grant applications was also discussed and it was AGREED that in future grant applications should be made in the name of the Parish Clerk so that all correspondence is received through the office.

12/49 TO REVIEW CLERK’S HOURS

Councillors discussed the proposal that the Clerk’s hours should be cut back for the new financial year in view of the fact that the land issues are very nearly resolved. The Clerk agreed that she felt that this was entirely appropriate in the circumstances. It was therefore AGREED that the Clerk’s hours would be reduced to 10 hours (from 12).

12/50 REPAIR OF CIRCULAR SEAT ON THE COMMON

The circular seat on the Common has become unsafe. Cllr. MacDonald has carried out an initial repair but it is felt that in view of the fact that this lovely seat was designed by Alison Crowther, and donated to the Village by a resident, a carpenter should be asked to take a look and give an estimate for repair. Cllr. Gibson said he would follow this up.

12/51 KISSING GATES ON LAND BEHIND HAYES COTTAGES

It was noted that only 1 of the two kissing gates on the land behind Hayes Cottages is in place, although the cost of the volunteer hours and the wood have both been claimed for. Cllr. Banks said he would chase this up with Bedales and the landowner – the position of the second gate has yet to be agreed.

12/52 SUB-COMMITTEE UP-DATES–

- (a) Roads and Traffic – Two more village residents have come forward to join this group and their details have been forwarded to Cllr. Openshaw.

An increase in the number of white vans from Bedales’ Facilities Department in Church Road was noted. It was felt that this will only become worse once the new houses are built. It was agreed that a letter seeking an explanation should be sent to the Bursar by the Chairman..

- (b) Steep Common – no up-date available

12/53 ON-GOING ISSUES

- (a) Community Bus Scheme – no up-date available
- (b) Closure to Traffic of Old Litten Lane – no feedback has been received from residents following the article in the Newsletter. The closure of Old Litten Lane to traffic would be welcomed by the local horse riding community, but concern for landowners requiring access is also a consideration. It was AGREED that there should be no further action at this time.
- (c) Shipwright’s Way – the concerns of the Parish Council with regard to the Railway Crossing have been documented and the response from Cath Hart noted. Cllr Martin said she would attend the meeting with Cath Hart and HCC representatives at Kettlebrook on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April to discuss plans for BOAT 32.

12/54 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting will be the AGM which is being held following the APM on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.