

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting held on 6th December 2010 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Caroline Robinson Fran Box Charles Gibson
Nick Hurst Richard Coles Jo Bell
Terry Cook Jenny Martin

In Attendance: Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

There were 4 members of the Public present.

APOLOGIES: David Llewellyn

10/175 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

10/176 PUBLIC COMMENT

- The problem of access to the footpath on land adjacent to Hayes Cottages was hi-lighted – the stile is very high and problematical for any residents with mobility problems. Consideration for a kissing gate to replace the stile was requested. The Chairman said this item was being discussed later on the Agenda.

10/177 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

31732/003	Farm Workers Dwelling	Land S.E. of Gardners Farm, Pratts Lane, Steep Marsh	No Objection with Comment
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10/178 FOOTPATH ACCESS AT HAYES COTTAGES

It was reported that money for access grants will be available again in March and the Parish Council will be eligible to apply for this type of work. However, the land owner has some reservations regarding dog owners not keeping their dogs under control whilst using the footpath across the hay field. It was agreed that Jenny Martin should investigate the possibility of re-directing the footpath around the top edge of the field (shown as a dotted line on the O.S. map) thereby making it easier to fence.

10/179 VILLAGE SHOP

The Proprietors of the Cricketers are keen to provide a small convenience store in a small room on the side of the pub with easy access to the car park. A social evening at the Cricketers has been arranged for Tuesday, 14th December for members of the community to listen to the plans and make suggestions. . It was suggested that, before the meeting, Johann and Paul should ensure that a newspaper licence can be obtained from Menzies, as this will have a direct effect on profitability. Councillors agreed to support the event, and to consider the possibility of financial backing once a business plan has been produced.

10/180 FINANCE

- Parish Plan – the documents received from the Chair and Treasurer of the Parish Plan Steering Committee (previously circulated) were discussed. Consideration was given to their request for a donation of £1,000. It was noted that the Parish Council are holding £592.68 left over from the

Village Design Statement and therefore only a further £400 is required. The Chairman recommended that the £1,000 be granted towards the Parish Plan and this seconded by Jo Bell and was unanimously agreed. It was also noted that the Group's liaison with members of the community has been excellent.

- Christmas tree – the proposal by Rev. John Owen for a Village Christmas tree and Christmas carol singing social was discussed. The Clerk explained that the Vicar was hoping that Bedales would donate their Christmas tree to the Village at the end of the School term. Various venues for siting the tree with access to electricity and space for carol singing were considered. Councillors agreed that the Village Hall car park was possibly the best option, being in the centre of the Village. It was agreed that Councillors would meet as Trustees of the Village Hall, after the Parish Council Meeting to consider the request.
- Payments – Councillors agreed that Membership of the SLCC should be continued.
- Budget and Precept – The budget for 2011/12 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that EHDC have asked Parish Councils to try to avoid increasing precepts in the current economic climate but it was pointed out that Steep's precept has not been raised for over 9 years. Taking into account the fact that the "Allotment" money will be transferred to the new Steep relief in Need Charity Account and that there were several projects in the pipeline (including the Village Hall extension, the Village Shop, etc.) the Chairman proposed that the Precept should be increased to £9,000 for the coming financial year. Although this equates to a 50% increase it was felt necessary. This was seconded by Jo Bell and agreed.
- Transfer of funds from H.C.C. – The Clerk reported that once the money for Footpath 20 and the donation towards the Parish Plan is paid out, there would be a balance of approximately £500 in the current account. Richard Coles proposed that £5,000 be transferred from the H.C.C. account – this was seconded by Caroline Robinson and all agreed.

10/181 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Salt Bins – The e-mail from H.C.C. was discussed. The Clerk confirmed that maintenance should not be necessary. Councillors agreed that in hindsight the bins were a good idea and should be requested for the following sites: Rockpit Hollow, Mill Lane, Island Farm, Hayes Cottages, Ridge Common Lane and the Village Hall Car Park. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with H.C.C.

10/182 DATES FOR 2011

Suggested dates for 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.

10/183 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 10th January at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.