

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 4th December 2017 at Steep Village Hall

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

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Minute	Item	Action
17/180	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – No apologies received	
17/181	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 6 th November 2017 were approved and signed.	
17/182	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
17/183	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – None	
17/184	<u>PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY</u> – EHDC have confirmed that Steep Parish Council can co-opt to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr. Luke Spurdle. It was agreed that the role should be advertised in the next edition of the Village Newsletter (February), as well as via the village noticeboards and website with a view to co-opting a new Councillor at the March P.C. Meeting. Applicants will be asked to prepare a short statement (200 words max) to explain why they would like to be a Parish Councillor.	Clerk
17/185	<u>COUNCILLOR EXPENSES</u> – The Chairman explained that at a recent meeting, HALC had highlighted the fact that many parish councils don't bother with expenses, perhaps because Councillors don't want to be perceived as being a financial burden to their parishes. However, he pointed out that this could deter some people from applying to be a parish councillor, especially those in a caring role, e.g. young parents. The Chairman had therefore sent out a document prior to the meeting setting out a proposal for travel/childcare expenses to be available for councillors and the clerk, for discussion. In general, councillors felt that offering to help cover travel/childcare expenses would help to attract a younger demographic to the Parish Council and it was agreed that the Chairman and the Vice Chairman should draft a policy for further discussion at the January Meeting and that £500 should be budgeted for potential Councillor expenses for 2018	Chair/ PC
17/186	<u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – Cllr. Oppenheimer highlighted the considerable challenges facing HCC in identifying £140m of savings - around £20m is being found through corporate housekeeping but the other £120m means an average reduction of 19% for each department. Other items discussed included a new fund for waste reduction initiatives, the new assault course at Queen Elizabeth Country Park and the improved technology on the new winter fleet keeping Hampshire's roads clear in icy weather. Cllr. Oppenheimer's full report is attached (Appendix A)	

17/187 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Drew highlighted a campaign to address increasing violence towards women, children and the elderly, especially in rural areas, and said he would be taking this forward via the District and Parish Councils. In addition, he wanted to make organisations aware of the District Councillor Grants which are available to help fund local events – contact Cllr. Nick Drew to find out more (or visit www.easthants.gov.uk). Cllr. Drew also urged Steep Parish Council to nominate parishioners for the up-coming EHDC Volunteer Awards.

Cllr. Drew was thanked for the recent financial contributions from his District Councillor grant pot towards the resurfacing of Footpath 22a (£750) and the new map board (£250).

17/188 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION- DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS – A summary report on the draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for EHDC has been received from the Local Government Boundary Commission. East Hampshire currently has high levels of electoral inequality – some councillors represent many more or many fewer voters than others and the review seeks to equalise the wards. The Local Government Boundary Commission propose to reduce the number of Councillors for East Hampshire from 44 to 43 and their full report and detailed map can be found online at www.lgbce.org.uk. Current proposals indicate that the ward boundary for Froxfield and Steep will now include Sheet (previously Petersfield St. Mary’s Ward), with Colemore and Priors Dean being moved to the Ropley & Tisted Ward, and Stroud to the Buriton and East Meon Ward. Whilst agreeing that it would be appropriate for Sheet to be incorporated into the Froxfield and Steep ward (they share many of the same concerns as the rural villages, as well as sharing a Clerk and Lengthsman), it was a concern that Stroud would no longer be a part of the ward, especially in view of the close alignment between Steep and Stroud (shared parish newsletter, Church, Lengthsman, and Speedwatch Scheme). It was agreed that the Chairman should respond to the consultation to express these concerns.

Chair

17/189 DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION – From May 2018 all councils will need to conform to the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and this will be a serious consideration for small parish councils. Following the November Parish Council Meeting, Cllr. Hurst had contacted EHDC to ask whether they could provide support/advice but a disappointing response had been received indicating that they are unable to help.

It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should attend an up-coming training session organised by HALC to find out more about what is required. In the meantime, Cllr. Hurst was asked to look at current practices and how Steep P.C. could start improving data security.

Clerk/
NH

17/190 FINANCE

- (a) The bank reconciliation for November was approved and signed.
- (b) The following cheques for December payment were authorised and signed:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100156	£1,670.00	N. Rook-Blackstone	Lengthsman (October)
100157	£120.00	HCC	Community Funded Initiative
100158	£21.00	Petersfield Town Council	Dog Bin
100159	£63.10	Rosemary Lilley	War Memorial Maintenance
Total :	£1,874.10		

- (c) Steep Marsh Residents Association – Correspondence received from the Steep Marsh Residents Association (SMRA) was discussed. SMRA are no longer an active organisation, but hold funds with Barclays who have notified the group to say that the

account is to be made dormant if it is not used. SMRA have asked whether it would be possible for Steep Parish Council to hold the monies on their behalf. Following advice from the Internal Auditor, Steep P.C. decided this would not be appropriate, unless the money is donated to the Parish Council to be ring fenced for use in the Marsh. The Clerk will feed back to SMRA.

Clerk

- 17/191 BUDGET – Following on from discussion at the November P.C. Meeting, costings for the traffic management proposals for Stoner Hill and the speedwatch scheme have now been confirmed - the cost of equipment required for speedwatch (as used at Selborne) is £1995 and projected costs for the redesigned proposals for Phase 1 of the traffic management scheme at Stoner Hill/Bell Hill are £3841. However, e-mail correspondence from EHDC indicates that transport funds held by EHDC/SDNPA for use within the parish for roads related projects stand at £12,162.

Following discussion, the amended budget proposal for 2018-19 (based on the current precept figure of £14,000) was approved.

17/192 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

- (a) Traffic Management Scheme – Stoner Hill – Redesigned proposals had been received following feedback from the Safety Audit and discussion with Joe Folland, HCC. The new plans include draft lines for the junction of Sandsbury Lane but do not include for the removal of the centre white line which would be allowed to fade with time and not re-marked (this is following advice that removal of the line can sometimes look messy when the line has been recently repainted). The cost of the redesigned work is £3841 and this could be completed within the next 12 weeks – in effect the re-designed plans are a quick step forward. Concerns were expressed as to whether the impact and therefore the effectiveness of the scheme would be lost if the centre line is not removed and this was discussed in full – however, following a vote, it was agreed to go ahead with the re-designed scheme. The Clerk was asked to contact Joe Folland and progress this asap.
- (b) Rockpits Lane – Joe Lait has raised a job for the re instatement of the carriageway to remove the drop off area at the edge and this will be completed within the next few months.
- (c) Water Leak at Pratts Lane – Cllr. Hurst has asked Joe Lait, Assistant Highways Engineer to progress this with the water company on behalf of Steep P.C.
- (d) EHDC Leaf Sweeping – A strongly worded letter is required following advice that EHDC are only able to focus leaf sweeping on urban areas! The Clerk was advised to address this to Richard Millard, Leader and Strategy Portfolio holder at EHDC.

- 17/193 SPEEDWATCH SCHEME – The Clerk will progress a visit to Selborne to view the use of their equipment and/or free hire of a demo unit in the New Year.

Clerk

17/194 FOOTPATHS

- (a) Footpath 22a – A spell of dry weather is required before work to improve surfacing can commence – it is unlikely this will be started before the Spring.
- (b) Stiles at Footpath 26 – On-going – the Chairman is following up on this.
- (c) The Coach Road – The Clerk is waiting to hear back from Natural England to enable the grant application to be progressed further.

Chair

Clerk

17/195 STEEP COMMON –

Tree Safety Audit – No report received.

Charges for firework display – Further research is required into regulations for the use of the Common – Cllr. Cruttenden will consult the register held in Winchester.

PC

17/196 MEETINGS ATTENDED

- EHAP&TC – This had been a very good meeting. Rob Humby had attended and given an overview of the scale of work covered by Hampshire Highways. The EHDC Traffic Team explained how they work alongside HCC.

17/197 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS –

- Hampshire Highways – Parishes Autumn Briefing – 13th December. The Chairman and Cllr. Cook will attend. Chair/
TC

17/198 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 8th January at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.