

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 3rd December 2018 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Nick Drew, District Councillor
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

| Minute | Item | Action |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| 18/173 | <u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Kate Ashfield and County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer | |
| 18/174 | <u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 12 th November were approved and signed | |
| 18/175 | <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare an interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared. | |
| 18/176 | <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Teresa Benson-Colpi was introduced to Parish Councillors as the new parish Tree Warden for Steep and was thanked for taking on the role. | |
| 18/177 | <u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</u> – No report received. | |
| 18/178 | <u>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</u> – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning – Cllr. Drew up-dated Steep P.C. on his in-put into recent planning applications in Steep• Bedales – Cllr. Drew has received 14 letters from pupils at Bedales concerned about the situation in Burma and will point them in the direction of Damien Hinds (EHDC don’t get involved in immigration)• Parking Survey – A parking survey is now available on-line via the EHDC website and Cllr. Drew urged Steep P.C. to complete the short survey (closing date 12.12.18).• Sports Awards – Cllr. Drew urged Steep P.C. to nominate members of Village Clubs for these awards. | |
| 18/179 | <u>DATA PROTECTION</u> <p>P.C. specific e-mails – A rather vague response has been received from Microsoft in response to the Chairman’s queries seeking clarification on the “not for profit” offer – however, it was agreed that having set out the situation, Councillors were happy to take this forward. The Chairman will progress this via Ray Street (web master).</p> | Chair |

18/180 FINANCE

(a) Budget 19-20 – Following discussion of some of the principal projects and costs for 2019/20, it was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet to produce a draft budget proposal for further discussion/approval at the January meeting.

Finance

(b) Precept 19-20 – This item will be discussed and confirmed at the January meeting, once budget proposals have been finalised. It was recognised that the precept has been kept at £14,000 for the past 3-years and that it may now be necessary to consider an increase for the next financial year.

(c) Cheque payments - The following cheques were approved for December payment:

| Chq No. | Amount | Payee | Service |
|---------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 100223 | £825.00 | HCC | ATC Survey and Report |
| 100224 | £601.13 | J. Hollington | December payment |
| Total: | £1426.13 | | |

18/181 ROADS AND TRAFFIC – Members of the Traffic Sub-Committee met to discuss the results of the ATC survey in detail and their report was circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that, in view of the very significant speeding issue on Bell Hill and Stoner (less severe in Church Road), expert advice is required. Cllr. Laycock was asked to write to Ian Janes at HCC and to the Police to share the data and seek in-put.

CL

18/182 FOOTPATHS – The grant applications towards repair of Footpaths 13 and 18 have been approved by HCC – it was agreed that Chris Budd should be asked to go ahead with this work as soon as possible (weather permitting).

JM

18/183 STEEP COMMON – A report of a meeting with Ian Janes from HCC to discuss a proposed new pedestrian entrance to the Common had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr. Janes’ suggestion was to try to improve the current entrance rather than to move it, and he felt this could be achieved by the installation of a broken white line across the entrance (HCC will carry this out at no cost to the parish). He also recommended that the hedge should be trimmed back to improve sight lines.

However, since the meeting with Mr. Janes, further advice has been received from the HCC Audit Team stating that visibility to the west from the location of the proposed new access would be a significant improvement over the current situation.

It was agreed to make the simple changes suggested by Mr. Janes initially and then to work to bring the two conflicting pieces of advice together (perhaps in liaison with the County Councillor).

It was also agreed that the Chairman should write to Sarah Hobbs at EHDC to query the cost of the meeting (and advice) between herself, her colleague, Alex Hawkins, and members of the Parish Council.

Chair

18/184 LENGTHSMAN – The resignation of the current Lengthsman was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should advertise the vacancy via the other parishes within the cluster, the village website and noticeboards as soon as possible, to try to ensure the scheme is back up and running as soon as possible.

Clerk

18/185 ON-GOING ISSUES

Steep Marsh issues –

- Bollards - Cllr. Hurst will engage with residents and feedback at the January meeting. NH
- Water Leak at Pratts Lane – Cllr. Hurst will forward correspondence from the Water Authority to the Chairman, who will write to the County Councillor to try to resolve this issue. NH/Chair
- Noticeboard – The Clerk will arrange a meeting with representatives of SMRA and a carpenter, to discuss requirements and get quotes. Clerk

Lutcombe Pond – Following receipt of advice from SDNPA, the Chairman has liaised with HCC Rangers about the leak at Lutcombe Pond and they are willing to work together with the Parish Council and SDNPA to resolve the problem. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Mark Alden at SDNPA to find out how best to take this forward and whether funding is available. Clerk

18/186 MEETINGS ATTENDED

- SDNPA Parish Workshop – The meeting was attended by the Chairman and Cllrs. Hurst and Laycock. Presentations from the workshop have since been circulated to everyone.
- Ashford Hangers Volunteer Day – This had been a very positive morning with 21 people from various parts of the Village helping to clear Jacks Meadow. Great work has been achieved.

18/187 UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- EHAP&TC – Wednesday, 5th December – Sam Jones from HCC will talk about the new parish fund and Officers from EHDC will talk about their services for the elderly and vulnerable.

18/188 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 7th January 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.