

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 5th February 2018 at Steep Village Hall

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

In Attendance: County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

Minute	Item	Action
18/15	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Jenny Martin and District Councillor, Nick Drew	
18/16	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 8 th January 2018 were approved and signed.	
18/17	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
18/18	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – A resident expressed interest in the vacant position on the Parish Council - this was discussed further under the relevant agenda item (18/21).	
18/19	<u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – There had been several queries arising from the January County Councillor report and Cllr. Oppenheimer addressed these: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campaign to protect BOATS – Cllr. Oppenheimer is pressing ahead with his campaign to ensure all BOATS are restricted to vehicles (no 4 x 4s or motorbikes, but exceptions to be made for farm vehicles) to protect the tranquillity of the National Park. Support is growing and legal advice is being sought. Cllr. Oppenheimer will keep Steep Parish Council informed of progress.• HCC Cutting List – Cllr. Oppenheimer will speak to Abby Sullivan to request an indication of timing for the HCC hedge cutting to enable the Parish Council to utilise the Lengthsman where necessary.• Drain Clearance – The Chairman explained the Parish Council’s frustration over the lack of leaf-sweeping, which causes problems in the narrow sunken lanes of the parish. Cllr. Oppenheimer agreed that it would be better to prevent blockages and felt that this is a complication of the 2-tier system – he undertook to discuss the issue with Cllr. Drew to see if money to provide this service in rural lanes could be found (see also item on leaf sweeping under roads and traffic 18/25)• Electric Vehicles – The projected savings of £210,000 will be made on fuel costs once the HCC fleet of vehicles is replaced.	
	The County Councillor’s full report for February is appended to these minutes.	
18/20	<u>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – No report received	

18/21 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY – The vacancy has now been advertised in the newsletter and two other expressions of interest (plus the resident present at the meeting) have been received. Each applicant will therefore be asked to write approximately 150 words on why they would like to be a Parish Councillor, what they feel they can bring to the P.C., and to identify any issues that they would like to get involved with, for the March Meeting, when a vote will be required to decide who should be co-opted.

18/22 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES – A draft policy had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed at some length with one Councillor expressing serious concerns that the move could be seen to undermine the voluntary ethos under which all Councillors have served over many years. After debate (in which there was general agreement that Councillors were all committed to the general principle of voluntary service), the Council approved the policy with one Councillor dissenting. PC

18/23 FINANCE

- (a) The bank reconciliation for January was approved and signed.
- (b) The grant application for £200 towards the Steep & Stroud Newsletter was unanimously approved – all agreed that the newsletter is an important communication tool for parish residents
- (c) The following cheques for February payment were authorised and signed:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100163	£21.00	PTC	Dog Bin (Dec and Jan)
100164	£240.00	N. Rook Blackstone	Lengthsman (Jan)
100165	£169.20	J. Graham	Refund - cradle (Play equipment)
100166	£51.85	P. Cruttenden	Search - Steep Common
100167	£200.00	Steep PCC	Newsletter -
100168	£585.07	J. Hollington	Clerk - Jan
Total :	£1,267.12		

18/24 LENGTHSMAN WORK – The Lengthsman work schedule for Feb/March was agreed – to include clearing around and cleaning the Village Gates in Steep Marsh, reinstating the information board on Steep Common and removal of a tree overhanging the children’s play area at Steep Village Hall.

18/25 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

- Amended Plans for Stoner/Bell Hill – The amended plans have been advertised on the website and via the February newsletter - feedback is being co-ordinated via the Clerk. Following receipt of correspondence from a concerned Island resident, Cllr. Oppenheimer has liaised with Ian Janes and Joe Folland and it has been agreed to extend the lines further up Stoner Hill if possible. The closing date for feedback on the revised plans is 16th February.
- Roadside damage at Rockpits Lane – The Clerk was asked to write to Joe Lait and stress the need for an urgent repair as the situation is getting steadily worse and could now do serious damage to vehicles. Clerk
- Water Leak at Pratts Lane – This issue has been referred to Joe Lait at Hampshire Highways but so far no-one appears to be prepared to own the problem. The Chairman will chase Joe Lait for a response. Chair
- Leaf Sweeping – A response to the letter to Richard Millard, Leader at EHDC, has been received from Mrs. Sharon Watson, Projects and Performance Manager. She reiterates the

fact that the leaf sweeping programme is aimed at areas with high footfall and states that EHDC are in discussions with the contractor about service improvements (including rural lanes) but that for now there are no immediate plans or money to change the method of rural lane sweeping. The Chairman will respond stating that the situation is unacceptable, especially as Steep is a promoted cycle route and currently the lanes are not suitable for cycling.

Chair

- Speedwatch – CPSO John Payne has now checked the proposed speedwatch sites for suitability. There are one or two areas of private land which would be ideal to site the equipment and relevant land owners will be approached for permission. .
- Speed Indicator Device – Cllr. Laycock will continue to research alternatives and arrange a free trial if possible.

CL

18/26 FOOTPATHS

- Footpath 22a – Work has not yet been started, due to the bad weather.
- Stiles at Footpath 26 – The Chairman has not yet managed to talk to the landowners
- The Coach Road – The Coach Road has been further damaged by the bad weather and a new quote has been received in the sum of £4185 to incorporate this. The Chairman will ask if HCC are able to undertake the habitat survey.
- Footpath 3 (Lythe Hanger) – A complaint about the condition of this path which has been badly damaged by motorbikes has been received from a member of the public. It was agreed to ask the landowner whether tree stumps could be laid across at the bottom and top ends of the path to prevent motorbikes passing, whilst still allowing walkers through. The Chairman will liaise with the landowner.

Chair

Chair

Chair

18/27 STEEP COMMON

- Play Equipment – Cllr. Graham was thanked for replacing the damaged cradle swing.
- Tree Audit – Joe Jackman is to carry out the audit during the coming week. Cllrs. Cook/Graham will meet with him, if possible.
- Bonfire/Firework charges – The history and findings of the common land and village green search material were discussed. Cllr. Cruttenden confirmed that the Common is designated for recreational purposes and that there are no conditions or restrictions. It was suggested that the Bonfire Committee should formally request permission to charge entry for the bonfire and firework event, annually from the Parish Council.
- Annual Play inspection – It was agreed to ask Nick Adams to carry out the annual inspection as per previous years.
- School boundary – The School has asked whether it would be possible for the Parish Council to repair a large hole in the boundary between the School and the Common. However, it was felt that this was a job more appropriate to the P.T.A. as the School boundary is not the Parish Council responsibility. Cllr. Graham will liaise with Steve Cook

TC/JG

PC

Clerk

JG

18/28 MEETINGS ATTENDED – Along with the County Councillor and representatives of Sheet P.C., Cllrs. Cook and Graham visited Adhurst St. Mary to see the impressive refurbishments currently being undertaken.

18/29 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be on Monday, 5th March at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.