

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 9th January 2012 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Caroline Robinson (in the Chair) Terry Cook
Suzi Openshaw Jim MacDonald Jenny Martin
Graham Banks Simon Bridger Charles Gibson

In Attendance: County Councillor - Vaughan Clarke
District Councillor - Nick Drew
Clerk - Jenny Hollington

There was 1 member of the Public present.

12/01 APOLOGIES: - Cllr. Nick Hurst

12/02 MINUTES – An error was noted in the names of Councillors present at the meeting. Once amended, the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2011 were then agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

12/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

12/04 PUBLIC COMMENT –

- It was pointed out that it can be difficult for some residents to find up-to-date information relating to the Parish Council. The Chairman responded saying that this is something that has been flagged up in the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire and which is in the process of being addressed by the Parish Council (see later Agenda item).

12/05 COUNTY COUNCILLOR COMMENT

County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke, said that following the retirement of Alan Todd from Hampshire Highways, Richard Peach has been appointed as Principal Engineer. Steep's usual contact (Chris White) is unchanged. The Engineers' Department will be moving to the Amey Highways Depot sometime in 2012.

Regarding the delay in the implementation of Solar PV panels on Hampshire buildings caused by the sudden change in the PV tariff, the matter is still under review. However, there are already 18 installations in the County, consisting of 436 panels. On top of this there are another 20 installations, almost all of them in schools, in the process of being completed.

12/06 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMENT

District Councillor, Nick Drew, said an increase in the amount of litter being left at the side of the road has been noted in neighbouring villages. The phone number to report major fly tipping incidents in East Hampshire is 0300 300 0013; smaller amounts can be reported via Jo Edwards at EHDC on 01730 234286.

He has been assured that waste collections are now working appropriately. If this is found not to be the case, residents are asked to e-mail Cllr. Drew so that he can make an issue of it with the Contractor.

12/07 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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|----------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| SDNP/36201/002 | Detached triple garage with store/playroom to 1st floor and dormers to south elevation following demolition of existing garage and shed | Low Wood, Ridge Common Lane, Steep GU32 1AX | No Objection (with comment) |
| SDNP/36201/003 | 2-storey extension with flat roof/lantern to north, 2-storey extension to north/east, single storey extension with roof light to south, revised fenestration/doors throughout, new entrance gates to drive and to include removal of two trees | Low Wood, Ridge Common Lane, Steep GU32 1AX | No Objection |
| SDNP/30871/007 | Replacement dwelling and garage/store buildings following demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings | Aldersnapp Dell, Lythe Farm Lane, Steep GU32 1AT | No Objection |
| SDNP/30928/029 | Variation of condition – 30928/022 The development of the hotel hereby permitted has been completed in accordance with the approved plans and details and its use as a minimum of a 22-bedroomed hotel has commenced, unless otherwise first agreed in writing by the planning authority | Adhurst St. Mary, London Road, Sheet GU31 5AD | No Objection (with comment) |
| SDNP/39164/001 | Replace existing dilapidated garage with new construction apart from north and west brick walls which will be retained | Island House, Island, Steep GU32 1AE | No Objection |

12/08 FINANCE

- (a) **Budget Proposals and Precept for 2012/13** – The draft budget had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the proposals were discussed. Councillors AGREED unanimously to accept the budget proposals for 2012/13 and that the Precept should remain at £9,000.
- (b) **Payments** – Payments to the following were approved: 100160 Bedales (provision of Kissing Gate) - £432.00, and 100161 (Clerk’s salary).
- (c) **Grant Requests** – Requests for donations had been requested from Victim Support and the Citizens Advice Bureau and these were discussed. In view of significant funding reductions made by the Government to the CAB and the excellent service they provide, Councillors agreed a donation of £500 for this financial year – Cheque no. 100162 was duly signed. It was decided not to donate to Victim Support on this occasion.

12/09 FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BOAT 31 (LYTHE HANGER)

Cllr. Martin has spoken to the landowner of the steeply wooded part of Lythe Hanger - he is happy for repair work to the BOAT to go ahead on his land. A quote for this part of the work has been obtained and Cllr. Martin will apply to the Small Grant Scheme for 50% funding, and approach the British Horse Society and Froxfield Parish Council for help with match funding. Steep Parish Council AGREED a contribution of £200.

Because of time constraints in applying for the Small Grant Scheme, it was AGREED that the lower part of the BOAT (top of Lythe Lane) would be dealt with separately in the next tranche of funding.

12/10 DOG WASTE BIN FOR STEEP COMMON

Two quotes have been received for Dog Waste Bins, both of which are designed to be fixed to a post. Cllr Bridger offered to help install the bin and as previously agreed, Cllr MacDonald will empty it on a regular basis to assess need. It was AGREED that the Clerk should order the cheaper of the two bins and that the scheme should be trialled for 6-months.

12/11 ON-GOING ISSUES

- (a) **Land Held in Trust** – A letter from the Chairperson to the Senior Case Worker at the Charity Commission, was circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman said that, following the Parish Council decision in January 2011 to appoint new Trustees for the land in view of the conflict of interest, she hoped the scheme would now soon get the go-ahead.
- (b) **Community Bus Scheme** – Cllr. Openshaw reported that the Taxi Share Scheme seems to be working, although a more frequent service has been requested and this has been fed back to Lisa Cook and Kevin Ings at H.C.C. A Public Meeting at Froxfield on this issue was well attended and Froxfield residents seem less satisfied with the service, reporting problems with timings, and bookings and requesting longer in Petersfield for lunch etc. Consideration may now be given to providing a Community Bus Scheme. The Parish Council AGREED to continue monitoring the scheme.
- (c) **Hampshire Transport Schemes** – E-mail correspondence from H.C.C. requesting a list of proposed transport schemes for the East Hampshire District had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. It was AGREED that Councillors should think of suitable projects for inclusion on the list and report them at the next Meeting for feedback to H.C.C.
- (d) **Timescale for action in response to Parish Plan** – The Chairman had circulated a proposal prior to the meeting, setting out short term, medium term and long term projects. The Short Term Projects were discussed –
- Common – Following lengthy discussion it was agreed that on this occasion a working party should be trialled to look at the issues raised in response to the Parish Plan Questionnaire including benches, play equipment and car parking. Cllr MacDonald will include this proposal in a Newsletter Article. The timescale for response should be the April P.C. Meeting.
 - Neighbourhood Watch – It was suggested that this scheme appears to be working better in some parts of the Village than in others and that perhaps it could be “Village-ised” – the Chairman said she would look into this further.
 - Noticeboards – It was suggested that further enquiries should be made of Bedales. If they are able to help and once an idea of cost is available, the Clerk will apply to the Small Grant Scheme and/or Community Forum for assistance with funding.
- (e) **Village Hall Car Park** – it was AGREED to defer this item until decisions are made about the adjacent land.

12/12 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS -

Commons and Hangers – Cllr. MacDonald will write an article for the Newsletter giving an up-date on what is happening on the Common with regard to proposals to clear a larger area for the annual bonfire event.

There is to be a Hangers Working Party on 19th February meeting at Lutcombe Pond – details to be confirmed.

Footpaths – nothing further to report.

Roads and Traffic – There is no grit bin at Rockpits Lane, despite a request last year – the Clerk to chase this up.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial – The B.T. phone box is due to be moved to the Village Hall site within the next few days. The new extension is now almost finished and has provided a very worthwhile storage space. Cllr Bridger has dug out the channel behind the War Memorial in an attempt to stop it flooding.

I.T - Parish On-Line – This is currently available to the Parish Council and Parish Plan as a free trial and a decision required before the next meeting – the cost of the service is £48 in the first year and £24 per year thereafter. Cllr. MacDonald said he would take a closer look at what is offered and e-mail Councillors to let them know his thoughts.

Parish Plan – nothing further to report

12/13 MEETING DATES 2012 – It was AGREED that the Parish Council AGM should be held on Thursday, 10th May at the slightly earlier time of 7.00 p.m. The November meeting will now be held on Monday, 12th November instead of the 5th (annual bonfire event).

12/14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 6th February 2012 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall primarily to discuss planning applications.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.