

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 9th January 2017 at Steep Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Jenny Martin Simon Bridger
Terry Cook Peter Cruttenden Luke Spurdle
Nick Hurst

In Attendance: Mike Pillans, Hampshire Highways
County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke
District Councillor, Nick Drew
Jenny Hollington - Clerk

There was one member of the public in attendance throughout the meeting.

Minute	Item	Action
17/01	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Graham Fairley	
17/02	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 5 th December were approved and signed.	
17/03	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
17/04	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – A member of the public had raised a concern via Cllr. Martin about the condition of Lutcombe Pond which is leaking badly, causing a problem to wildlife and the path to become extremely muddy. It was agreed that this concern should be included as an agenda item for February and in the meantime Cllr. Martin should contact Pete Durnell, Ashford Hangers Ranger, and invite him to the February meeting to discuss a solution.	JM
17/05	<u>CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR STEEP</u> – An expression of interest in the vacant position had been received from Mr. Christopher Laycock, a resident of Ridge Common Lane, and brief details of his skills and interests had been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Christopher Laycock should be co-opted to the vacant position on Steep Parish Council. The declaration to accept office was duly signed and Cllr. Laycock welcomed on-board.	
17/06	<u>ROADS AND TRAFFIC</u> <u>Up-date on Steep’s Road Issues</u> - Mr. Mike Pillans was welcomed to the meeting. He confirmed that Mr. Joseph Lait has taken over from Connor Morris as the Local Highways Engineer for our area and will be Steep Parish Council’s first port of call for day to day routine maintenance going forward – it was agreed that Cllr. Cook should meet with Joseph Lait to drive around the parish and hi-light issues.	

With regard to on-going issues within the parish, Mike Pillans up-dated the Parish Council as follows:

- Mill Lane corner – HCC Legal Department will be sending out an official encroachment order this week in respect of the impaired sight lines and loss of kerb refuge caused by the new yew hedge. The white lines have been put in as a temporary measure to encourage vehicles to turn further out to leave room for pedestrians until the issue is resolved.
- Drainage in Ashford Lane – The gully has now been jetted and the mouth will be rebuilt later this month to keep silt out. Mike Pillans will liaise with the landowner with regard to access to sort out any blockage further up the gully.
- Elmwood Lane – The blocked gully was jetted in September. An order has now been raised to dig out ditches through Steep Marsh.
- Condition of passing places in Steep Marsh – Pratts Lane and Rockpits Lane are due to be surface dressed within the next few months (as will Mill Lane, Island Farm Lane and Ashford Lane) and this will include surface dressing of passing places (there is no money within the budget for a permanent fix at this stage).
- Water leak at Pratts Lane – The leak has now been fixed but the road has been compressed by large vehicles, resulting in a large hump which needs to be flattened – this info will be passed on to the Winchester office.
- Lythe Lane – The patching work carried out is not adequate and this item will be added to the list of planned work to be re-done.
- Stoner Hill – Overgrown hedges along Stoner Hill are still causing problems – letters will be sent to homeowners.
- Sight lines from the Coach Road – If possible Hampshire Highways will cut back the trees and hedges to improve the situation – there is a query over who owns the land (S.E. Water?) – Mike Pillans will look into this.
- Sight Lines from Ridge Common Lane – A recent accident has hi-lighted the need for action to improve sight lines for traffic emerging from Ridge Common Lane onto the C18. It may be possible to extend the white lines out further into the C18 to resolve this – to be followed up with Joseph Lait.
- Flooding at Mill Lane corner – The work done at Mill Lane corner has resulted in private driveways being lower than the road, causing huge puddles to be formed which are currently very icy and dangerous – this item will be followed up by Mike Pillans/Joseph Lait.

It was queried why road sweeping is the responsibility of EHDC? Currently the system doesn't work - sweeping of the parish lanes doesn't get done resulting in blocked drains which HCC then have to clear. EHDC won't clear the lanes once mud and leaves have become detritus in the middle of the lane. Either EHDC and HCC need to work better together, or the workload should fall to either the District or the County (or be devolved to local farmers). Mr. Pillans was asked to feed back the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the current system to the appropriate people.

Councillors asked why the signs for closure of the Hawkey Road have been taken down? Mr. Pillans confirmed that Hampshire Highways are trying to agree a way of doing the work using traffic lights and single lane traffic.

It was requested that in future the Parish Council is kept informed of all proposed Highway work taking place within the parish in good time as often Steep P.C. feel they are left completely in the dark.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Pillans for looking into the issues raised and providing feedback – it was very much appreciated.

Traffic Management Issues – A disappointing response had been received from Mr. Ian Janes, regarding traffic management on Stoner Hill, explaining that as part of the ongoing reductions in the County Council's traffic management service, priority can only be given to sites where there is an existing injury accident problem. Steep Parish Council have noted that there have been several

accidents on Stoner Hill recently, although none of these are thought to have resulted in serious injury.

It was queried whether the Parish Council could assist with the cost of installation of village “gates” for Stoner Hill to provide a visual barrier to help slow traffic as it enters the parish and agreed that this option should be considered. It was also agreed that the HCC Speed Watch programme should be revisited as experience proves that this scheme can be an excellent deterrent.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Janes drawing his attention to the Parish Council’s concerns over safety on Stoner Hill and offering the Parish Council’s support in resolving the issues.

Clerk

17/07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – The County Councillor’s report is appended to the Minutes.

17/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT –

- Cllr. Drew asked for nominations to be put forward as soon as possible for the forthcoming Sports Awards event as the deadline is looming– currently there are no nominations from the Hangers ward.
- Cllr. Drew was asked to find out why none of Steep’s lanes have yet been swept by EHDC despite constant requests.
- Cllr. Drew reported that Froxfield Parish Council have noticed an escalation in cases of fly-tipping recently and queried whether this has also been a problem in Steep. However, although there were a good many cases of fly-tipping in Steep last year, the situation seems to have improved in the last few months.

Chair

ND

17/09 FINANCE

- (a) The December bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed by Cllr. Martin. The balance in the HSBC current account as at 10th January 2017 is £15,810.74.
- (b) A letter from Butser Homestart requesting a £200 grant towards their local charity work was discussed – it was agreed that although this is a laudable charity, unless there is evidence that families from the parish benefit, no funding can be considered at the current time.
- (c) The following cheques were approved for January payment:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100106	£290.00	Nick Rook-Blackstone	Lengthsman - November
100107	£60.00	J. Street	Website (Oct - Dec)
100108	£29.40	Petersfield Town Council	Dog Bin emptying - Common
100109	£1,140.00	J. Hollington	Salary - Nov/Dec
Total :	£1,519.40		

17/10 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL

The Working Party met with the Lengthsman and Kit Claxton-Wright to discuss the condition of the current yew hedge. It had been agreed that the majority of the hedge needs to be lower as it has grown beyond the apex of the Memorial and over the next couple of years, the hedges will also be taken back as they have pushed out over the benches. The stump to the side of the Memorial will also be taken down. A dozen new yew whips will be purchased to provide continuity around the

corner into Church Road. The Lengthsman will be asked to cut the hedge and plant the whips as soon as possible. It is envisaged that wild flowers will be sown/planted on the grass area in front of the new yew hedge. The Clerk was asked to ensure that a small article is included in February's newsletter so that parish residents are aware of proposals.

Clerk

17/11 FOOTPATHS –

(a) Map Board – The SGS application for a new map board needs to be submitted by 27.1.17. A request for up-dated photographs will be included in the February newsletter

Clerk

(b) Shipwright's Way – A large fallen branch blocking Footpath 32 was reported – Cllr. Martin will ensure that this is reported to HCC.

JM

17/12 STEEP COMMON – The white rubbish bags have been cleared by Cllr. Cook

17/13 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE – An up-dated draft had been circulated and was discussed. It was felt that the difficulty with the plan is that so many scenarios have to be covered. There is also the difficulty of keeping records with names and contact details for those who could help and/or those who would need the most help. Another meeting of the Working Party will be arranged – and all input gratefully received.

GF

17/14 DEVOLUTION – A disappointing response to the letter expressing Steep Parish Council's concerns regarding a lack of communication with regard to the Council's for Devolution website and survey had been received from Cllr. Ferris Cowper at EHDC was read to the meeting.

17/15 OPTIONS FOR CLERK'S PHONE CONTACT – Currently the Clerk's home phone number is used as a contact number for the Clerk/Steep P.C. However, increasingly non-urgent calls are made during the evenings, weekends, or at Bank Holidays. It was agreed that alternatives (perhaps to be shared with Sheet Parish Council), should be considered. The Chairman said he would look into alternative solutions.

Chair

17/16 CORRESPONDENCE

- Community questionnaire response summary – Steep School – It was agreed that this item should be deferred until the February meeting.

17/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will take place on Monday, 6th February 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.