

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Mrs. Caroline Robinson

**CLERK:** Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Caroline Robinson (in the Chair)  
Graham Banks  
Charles Gibson  
Jim MacDonald

Terry Cook  
Simon Bridger  
Jenny Martin  
Nick Hurst

In Attendance: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke  
Ray Street (Steep Village Website)  
Tony Struthers (Chairman, Parish Plan Steering Group)

There were 2 members of the Public present.

12/90 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Suzi Openshaw (approved absence)

12/91 MINUTES – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were agreed as accurate records of the meetings and signed accordingly.

12/92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

12/93 PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment

12/94 COUNTY COUNCILLOR COMMENT

Cllr. Clarke spoke about the importance of tourism on Hampshire's economy. Hampshire is the 6<sup>th</sup> most visited county in the UK and there were 41.2 million overnight and day trips last year. East Hampshire is the 4<sup>th</sup> most visited area in Hampshire behind the New Forest, Winchester and Portsmouth and 7.1% of the jobs in the District depend on it.

The Under Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government will be publishing a guide to members' pecuniary interests to help Parish and Town Councils as there are misconceptions that the arrangements for disclosing pecuniary interests are more onerous than was previously the case – this is not so!

Councillors queried the lack of consultation from Hampshire with regard to the appearance of new horse signage at Bushy Hill and requested that, in future, any changes are discussed with the Parish Council.

12/95 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – there was no report available.

12/96 UP-DATE ON THE WEBSITE FROM RAY STREET (WEB MANAGER)

The Parish Council website (which is separate from the Village Website) has been going for about a year now and it does not appear there have been any problems. The P.C. website has approximately 15 unique visits per month.

The Village Website received 3000 hits last year. Feedback from the Parish Plan Questionnaire has raised several points to be considered, including:

- For sale/wanted page – needs more promotion as not used very much;

- Tourism – more pictures, information requested, including accommodation, walks, maps, etc. – a link to H.C.C. Rights of Way will be included;
- Interactive forum – it was pointed out that blogs need moderating and this would be too time consuming but twitter may be an option;
- Planning – this is up-dated regularly via P.C. Agenda/Minutes – the link to the SDNPA planning pages is in place;

Councillors briefly discussed various options but, because of time constraints, it was agreed that feedback should be given at a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked Ray for all his hard work behind the scenes.

12/97 TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE PARISH PLAN

The soft copy draft of the Parish Plan had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Tony Struthers confirmed that the Landscape Assessment, Settlement Appraisal and Historical Buildings Documents are still being worked on and it is proposed that these documents will be produced as soft copy due to cost. County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke, very kindly agreed to donate a further £500 from his budget to enable these documents to be printed as hard copy and this was very gratefully accepted!

There being no further comments on the draft Parish Plan it was RESOLVED that Council approves and adopts the Report of the Steep Parish Plan Steering Group, including specifically the Parish Design Guidance (which replaces the Village Design Statement of 2001) and the Action Plan in the support of the Report’s vision for the future of Steep.

The Chairman congratulated Tony Struthers and his team on doing such a fantastic job.

12/98 TO DISCUSS FUTURE FORMAT OF P.C. MEETINGS

The Chairman and Vice-Chair have worked together to look at how other Parish Council’s run their business, and to work out how meetings can be better focussed on areas for improvement as hi-lighted by the Parish Plan Action Plan.

Both the Chairman and Vice-Chair agree that the answer lies in setting up committees to focus on specific projects/areas, and to feedback findings for decision at full Parish Council Meetings. A Planning Committee (with delegated powers) would also resolve the issue of the 21 day SDNPA deadline for response to applications (as opposed to 28 with EHDC).

The Vice-Chairman circulated a document setting out a possible structure for Committees and Councillors were asked to give the matter some thought before the next meeting when this item will be put forward for constructive debate and resolution.

12/99 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SDNP/12/00 126/FUL	<b>Replacement 2-storey dwelling with detached double garage following demolition of farmhouse (as amended by plans received 18.6.12)</b>	Oakhurst Farm, Mill Lane, Steep GU32 2DJ	No Objection
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12/100 FINANCE:

- a) Cheque number 100179 (Clerk’s salary and expenses) was approved
- b) It was reported that the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebration had been a great success and the Committee gave a generous donation to the Rosemary Foundation. However, they have requested that some of the money raised from the sale of refreshments (£100) be retained by the Parish Council in their account and used as a “float” for the next village event – e.g. the proposed

Village Christmas Tree and Carol event. Councillors discussed this proposal and AGREED that the Parish Council should retain the float for future events.

- c) The Clerk requested a contribution towards a sign for the new Information Kiosk (the adopted B.T. Phone Box). This was discussed and it was suggested that the word “telephone” at the top of the glass could be scratched off and a sign writer asked to write “information kiosk” – the Clerk was asked to investigate this possibility.

12/101 UP-DATE FROM SUB-COMMITTEES SET UP IN RESPONSE TO PARISH PLAN FINDINGS:

**Steep Common** – Cllr. MacDonald said that the sub-committee has met and are looking at the issues raised in the Parish Plan – e.g. seating, play equipment, parking etc. Once they have formalised their views, Cllr. MacDonald will report back to the P.C.

**Traffic Management** – Cllr Openshaw has a list of people willing to help. Realistically however because of the school holidays, the group will now meet in September.

Cllr. MacDonald said he will contact Chris White (H.C.C. Roads) to discuss schemes available in Hampshire which may be of assistance.

12/102 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE SDNPA MEETING

The Chairman said that several interesting points had arisen from this meeting:

- The Parish Plan is welcomed by the SDNPA since not all parishes will require a neighbourhood plan. The Chairman asked that the draft Parish Plan be sent to the SDNPA a.s.a.p. so that it can be considered by them when forming the National Park Plan.
- Grants are available if a Neighbourhood Plan is required;
- SDNPA are reviewing the 21 day deadline for comments on planning applications.

12/103 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Commons and Hangers** – Cllr MacDonald said he had received several requests for use the Common as per previous years –

- Steep School would like to erect a Marquee alongside the school as part of the end of term celebrations (Saturday, 7th July);
- The Scouts would like to hold their annual small bonfire event in September;
- The Year 6 teacher at Steep School is leaving and would like to show a Laurel and Hardy Film to her Year 6 class on the Common in the evening – this is still in the early stages of planning and may not go ahead;

Cllr. MacDonald confirmed that risk assessments will be carried out by all concerned and they have their own insurance cover – Councillors had no objections to the above.

A request for a car boot sale to be held on the Common was also considered but it was not felt that the Common is a suitable location – it was suggested that potentially the Village Hall car park would be more appropriate.

The Clerk was asked to produce a Code of Practice for use of the Common.

**Footpaths** - A request for seasonal growth to be cut back at the end of Footpath 13 at Hayes Cottages has been received and will be dealt with.

A tree is down on Footpath 15 – Cllr. Banks will follow this up with Bedales’ Grounds Maintenance Team.

Cllr Banks is following up on a proposal to resurface Footpath 15 as part of Bedales “Whole School Effort”.

**Roads and Traffic** - In general it is felt that the roads are in a shocking state, despite some patching work being carried out.

Hedges in Church Road have been cut by Bedales.

**Steep Village Hall and War Memorial** - A representative from Leader will be auditing the project on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 p.m. She will stay to see the Short Mat Bowls Group in action and, therefore, support for the group is requested.

The Clerk was asked to find out who the Camper Van in the car park belongs to and ask them to move it.

**I.T.** - Cllr Hurst will contact Ray and find out if there is any back-up for P.C. information on Squirrel.

12/104 CORRESPONDENCE

Draft District/Borough Transport Statement – the Clerk was asked to forward this to Cllr. Openshaw for action.

12/105 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.