

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 17th July 2017 at Steep Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Terry Cook Nick Hurst
Peter Cruttenden Christopher Laycock Jenny Martin

In Attendance: Russell Oppenheimer, County Councillor
Nick Drew, District Councillor
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Minute	Item	Action
17/102	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Bridger	
17/103	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 5 th June 2017 in Steep Marsh were approved and signed.	
17/104	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
17/105	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – None	
17/106	<u>RESIGNATION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR</u> – The resignation of Cllr. Graeme Fairley, due to an imminent house move, was noted. The Chairman acknowledged the good work achieved by Cllr. Fairley during his time in office - he will be very much missed by members of Steep Parish Council.	
	It was agreed that the Clerk should notify EHDC as soon as possible, and advertise the vacancy via the noticeboards, website and newsletter. If no election is called within the allotted 14 days, then the Parish Council will co-opt a new member in October.	Clerk
17/107	<u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report is appended to the Minutes.	

Attention was drawn to the following items:

- A 6-week public consultation on options for achieving costs savings called “Serving Hampshire”.
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancingthebudget>
The Chairman pointed out that the consultation dates (3.7.17-21.8.17) would make it very difficult for small parish councils to respond as many don’t meet over the summer months - Cllr. Oppenheimer said he would feed this information back to HCC.
- The draft South Downs Local Plan will go out to public consultation in September but the current version is available via https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/PC_2017June15_Agenda-Item-7-Appendix-1.pdf (The allocation for Steep is on page no. 334).
- HCCs new road transport contract with Skanska commences on 1st August 2017

- The Rural Communities Fund was launched on 19th June, which brings together 4 funds and makes it easier for Parish Councils to apply for funding. In addition, Cllr. Oppenheimer has £8000 available for parishes within his ward (this will amount to approximately £500 per village).
- Roads and Traffic – Cllr. Oppenheimer is a Bedales' parent and said he would be happy to organise a meeting with parents to discuss the issue of traffic in Church Road. This item will be discussed further at the September meeting of the Parish Council.
- Dementia – Pilot Tracker Scheme – This has been deemed a success and is now being rolled out across Hampshire. For anyone interested in finding out more the contact no. for Hampshire Adult Care Services Team is 0300 555 1386

17/108 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Drew hi-lighted the following items:

- The recent Community Forum meeting focussed on enforcement issues and was well attended and informative. Cllr. Drew has asked EHDC to respond directly to questions re. enforcement from the Chairman (as they weren't seen until after the meeting);
- EHDC have agreed to hold a review meeting to discuss the proposal to remove a squash court at the Taro Centre
- EHDC boundary review – The consultation closes on 14th August and parish councils are urged to respond where there are any issues.

17/109 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

- (a) **Feedback on the Open Meeting to discuss traffic calming proposals and the Speedwatch Scheme** – The meeting had been very well attended; residents obviously feel very strongly about speed and traffic through the village. The Chairman felt that it was a shame not more Councillors had been able to attend the meeting as residents' concerns need to be heard - in future dates of such meetings will be more carefully considered to ensure all Councillors can attend. Many in attendance at the meeting were from Church Road who were very concerned about speed and volume of traffic in their road. It is recognised that input from Bedales is necessary in addressing this issue. Cllr. Oppenheimer (a Bedales' parent) is keen to try to try to organise a meeting between the Head, parents from the School and village residents to get the ball rolling and this is something that will be followed up in September. In the short term, traffic calming proposals for Stoner/Bell Hill will continue to be prioritised because of the number of accidents which have occurred. The general feeling at the meeting was that the current proposals don't go far enough to address the issues (especially on the approaches to the village). HCC are currently drawing up a scheme for the C18 and once this is received, proposals will be discussed further.

Community Police Support Officer, John Payne, outlined details of the Speedwatch Scheme and there had been enthusiasm and support for the Scheme – 10 volunteers had come forward. Stroud Parish Council are also interested in running the scheme and it may therefore be possible to join forces to share the cost of the equipment. It was agreed that an article on should be written for inclusion in the September Newsletter to gain as much interest as possible, and to push forward with this initiative.

Chair/
Clerk

(b) **On-Going Issues**

- EHDC Leaf Sweeping – Nothing further has been heard from EHDC and the lanes have still not been swept. This will be followed up via EHDC representatives.
- HCC Communication – A response has now been received from Cllr. Humby setting out HCC policy. The Chairman will respond to this correspondence and will also invite Cllr. Humby to an EHAP&TC meeting so that he is better able to understand the situation from parish and town council perspectives.

Chair/
Clerk

Chair

- Pratts Lane – No-one is willing to take responsibility for the on-going water leak in Pratts Lane which is causing increasing damage to the road – Cllr. Hurst has obtained a couple of quotes for testing the water (which will ascertain who is responsible) in the order of £130. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the test to be carried out to resolve the issue once and for all.

NH

17/110 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME – Work priorities for August were discussed and agreed

JM/
Clerk

17/111 FOOTPATHS –

Footpath 22a – The SGS grant application has been submitted and work will be started once HCC funding is approved.

Clerk

Stile on Footpath 26 – The stile is currently very wobbly and the land falls away steeply on one side - Cllr. Martin has met with Neil Bowery to discuss ownership of the stile/land – however, this is still unclear and will be followed up and discussed further in September.

JM

The Coach Road – Froxfield Parish Council have requested a specification for the proposed repairs of the Coach Road (as part of the road is in their parish). This will be followed up with Chris Budd and discussed further in September.

Clerk

Footpaths 501 and 29 – The Lengthsman has cut back the vegetation on these footpaths.

17/112 STEEP COMMON – The Annual Play Inspection has now been carried out and the report received. It was agreed that Cllrs. Cook, MacDonald and Spurdle would meet to discuss the report and actions required and report back at the September meeting.

TC/LS
Chair

17/113 FINANCE –

(a) Clerk’s pay – The Chairman proposed that a standing order should be set up each month to ensure the Clerk is paid regularly. The Finance Committee will need to meet twice a year to check whether any adjustments for tax and national insurance are required. This was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

(b) The bank reconciliation for June, previously circulated, was approved and signed.

(c) Cheques for July payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100133	£939.60	Metrosigns	New Map Board
100134	£880.00	N.Rook-Blackstone	Lengthsman - June
100135	£60.00	R. Street	Website (April-June)
100136	£55.80	N.W. Adams	Annual Play Inspection
100137	£37.80	PTC	Dog Bins (May and June)
100138	£23.40	HMRC	Tax - Clerk
100139	£1,173.21	J. Hollington	Clerk, May-June + expenses
Total :	£3,169.81		

(d) August cheques - It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare a list of cheques for payment in August to be circulated to Parish Councillors for information and for final approval by

cheque signatories.

Clerk

- 17/114 MAP BOARD – In the Clerk’s absence, the photos to be used to illustrate the board will be cropped and forwarded to Hampshire Printing Service by Cllr. Cruttenden. PC
- 17/115 EAST HAMPSHIRE’S WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY – The Chairman had prepared a draft response which was discussed. Councillors raised a couple of other issues (e.g. there should be a pavement from Island to Hayes Cottages and concerns re. speed of traffic along Bell Hill) and the Chairman undertook to make the required changes and submit the response on behalf of Steep P.C. The Chairman was also asked to write to EHDC, c/o Nick Drew, about the litter and temporary arrows left in the parish’s lanes following organised cycle rides. Chair
- 17/116 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION – ELECTORAL REVIEW OF EAST HANTS WARDING – It was agreed that a response should be submitted to say that Steep P.C. are content with the current situation. Clerk/
Chair
- 17/117 MEETINGS ATTENDED – The Chairman attended the meeting in Ashford Hangers and reported that the leak from Ashford Pond has now been prioritised and will be dealt with. Cobbett’s view is to be grazed by cattle once again and the vertical path from the Poet’s Stone to Lutcombe Pond is to be widened and cleared. A vintage trees audit and a dead wood survey are to be undertaken across the Hangers. The Chairman raised the issue of Juniper, which is looking very sad and overgrown - the Rangers will look to find a solution. No date has yet been set for the next Volunteer Day.
- 17/118 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – The next meeting of the East Hampshire Association of Local Parish and Town Councils is to be held at Steep Village Hall on Wednesday, 6th September. This is the first time the quarterly meeting has been hosted at Steep and the Chairman urged Parish Councillors to attend.
- 17/119 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 4th September at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.