

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 3rd June 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Steep Village Hall

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

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

There was 1 member of the public present.

13/78 APOLOGIES – None

13/79 MINUTES: - The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th May 2013 were approved and signed accordingly.

13/80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any pecuniary interests should be recorded as necessary.

13/81 PUBLIC COMMENT –

- It was reported that the Hangers Way Footpath from Ashford Lane is very overgrown and concern was also expressed over the dangerous and shocking state of Mill Lane at the junction with Ashford Lane – it was confirmed that both these items will be dealt with via HCC.

13/82 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke, reported on information recently released from the 2011 census (attached).

In response to queries, Cllr. Clarke undertook to follow up on the lack of response to e-mails regarding the Hangers Way Footpath and the badly-timed traffic survey which had taken place in Steep Marsh during the half-term holidays – another survey was requested during a normal working week.

13/83 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

District Councillor, Nick Drew, reported that Ferris Cowper has been elected as the new Leader of EHDC. The format of Community Forums is to be reviewed to ensure they remain valid and interactive.

In response to queries from Councillors he undertook to forward up to date information on recycling.

13/84 FINANCE

(a) The following cheques were approved:

100257	Ken Abraham (Internal Auditor)	£135.00
100258	N.W. Adams (Play Equipment inspection)	£ 48.60
100259	J. Hollington (salary)	£416.00
100260	HMRC (tax)	£104.00

(b) Co-Operative Bank – the recent bad press is a concern as Parish Council money is not protected – the situation will need to be monitored carefully. The Clerk confirmed that £5000 has been

transferred back to the HCC deposit account, leaving a total of £4,487 for day-to-day use for the next few months. It was AGREED that both the HCC and the Co-Operative Account should remain open for the time-being.

- (c) The Clerk confirmed that there is nearly £5,000 in the Community Shop account and queried action regarding the money. It was explained that donations had been made in good faith by Village residents towards start-up costs for the proposed Village Shop. Sadly some of those who had donated are no longer with us and it was therefore felt inappropriate to attempt to give back the money now there is no longer a requirement for a Shop. It was AGREED that consideration should be given to using the money for an equally necessary community project. The Clerk was requested to advertise this decision via the Village Newsletter, and ask for comments and suggestions from parishioners. This item will be discussed further once feedback is received.

13/85 MATTERS ARISING FROM MAY MEETING:

- (a) Projects for SDNPA Community Infrastructure Delivery Plan – these currently include a designated cycle path from Church Road to Petersfield along the C18 and improvements to the Jubilee Day Nursery outside play area at the Village Hall. A proposal to increase the number of car parking spaces and the surface of the car park at the Village Hall was also discussed – more research is required and it was AGREED that this should be undertaken via the Roads and Traffic and Recreation Working Parties.
- (b) Dunhurst Students’ Community Work on 25th June – the following ideas were approved – cleaning and tidying up the Information Kiosk, weeding and clearing the ditch at the Village Hall, and helping to clear sycamore saplings in liaison with the Tree Warden, at Steep Common. The Clerk was asked to feedback these requests via Mrs. Box.
- (c) 2014 Commemorations for WW1 Centenary and D-Day 70TH Anniversary – The proposal to set aside small pieces of land throughout the Village to grow poppies was discussed and approved. It was AGREED that Poppies will be sown this autumn along the verges of Ridge Common Lane, in the triangle of land in Mill Lane at the junction with Ashford Farm Lane and in front of the telephone box in Steep Marsh. Depending on cost and effort involved, land at the back of the car park at the Village Hall will also be considered.
- (d) Bi-monthly Parish Council Meetings - Now that the Planning Committee is running smoothly and the Roads and Traffic and Recreation Working Parties are up and running, it was felt that the Parish Council should trial a return to bi-monthly meetings from September until the AGM 2014 when the situation could be reviewed. For this to work smoothly it would be necessary for all Councillors to be focussed and disciplined and to ensure they are fully prepared for the meetings. This item to be agreed at the July Meeting.

13/86 AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS – the proposed amendment to the Council’s Standing Orders, following the Council’s adoption of the EHDC version of the Code of Conduct, as circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, was APPROVED.

13/87 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Bedales Community Open Evening – Tuesday, 11th June 2013 – Councillors were encouraged to attend.
- Community Transport Forum – Wednesday, 12th June 2013 – Cllr. Openshaw will attend.
- East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils – Wednesday, 12th June – the Clerk was asked to send apologies for Cllrs. Robinson and MacDonald who had prior commitments.

13/88 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 1st July 2013 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.