

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN:** Jim MacDonald

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in the meeting room at Haste Ltd., Steep Marsh**

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

**In Attendance:** Nick Drew, District Councillor  
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 9 members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for coming along on such a wet and windy evening and expressed appreciation to Haste Ltd for allowing the Parish Council use of the meeting room as a venue for the Steep Marsh meeting.

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
17/89	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer	
17/90	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2017 were approved and signed.	
17/91	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
17/92	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – The Chairman invited comments from members of the public not related to items already on the agenda (comments on footpath and road issues to be received when those items were reached on the agenda). <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Urbanisation of the countryside – A local resident commented that it was a shame that the recently re-surfaced car park at Haste Ltd had been painted with white lines, as this detracts from the rural location.</li></ul>	
17/93	<u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – The new County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, had sent apologies that he was unable to attend the meeting as he is out of the Country – no report had been received.	
17/94	<u>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – District Councillor, Nick Drew, drew attention to his EHDC Councillor grant pot which can be used for a variety of community projects – e.g. speed awareness signs, footpath improvements, etc. He has recently given a grant towards the Petersfield Shakespeare Festival which takes place at Bedales over the summer.	

Cllr. Drew continues to keep an eye on all local planning applications and members of the public are encouraged to get in touch with him/EHDC if they have concerns over an application or enforcement issue.

Cllr. Drew said that he recognises that the lack of superfast broadband is an issue for Steep Marsh residents and he is due to meet with B.T. representatives on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to look at where the gaps are and what can be done to resolve the issue.

17/95 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

(a) **Steep Marsh specific issues** – The following concerns were raised by Steep Marsh residents:

- Cats Eyes – The need for the newly installed cats’ eyes on the Farnham Road was questioned - the cats’ eyes on the Marsh side of the village entry gates divide the lane, contradicting signage which states that it is a single lane with passing places. The cats’ eyes outside Burntash are not in the middle of the lane which is likely to lead to an accident. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had not been made aware of the intention to install cats’ eyes, which is hugely frustrating and another example of the lack of communication from Hampshire Highways.
- Passing Places – The resurfacing of the passing places is welcomed, but preparation for the work wasn’t adequately carried out and so pot holes have appeared from day one. The resurfacing of the passing places is something the Parish Council have been chasing for years – whilst it is good that something has happened at last, it has sadly fallen short of what was required. It was noted that the HCC contract with Amey is coming to an end and Skanska will take this over in August – it is important that from the outset of this contract HCC ensure that quality control and standards are maintained.
- Parking issues – In some instances, the passing places are being used for parking. The small green in front of the bungalows has also been ruined by cars using it as a parking space. Cllrs. Spurdle and Cook agreed to investigate who owns the land in front of the bungalows and follow up on options to prevent this with HCC.
- Traffic Issues in Sheet – The double parking on the Farnham Road, adjacent to the Village Green in Sheet, continues to cause problems for Steep Marsh residents en route to Petersfield. It was agreed that the Chairman should speak to the Chairman of Sheet P.C. about this issue.

TC/LS

Chair

(b) **On-Going Issues**

- EHDC Leaf Sweeping – Nothing further has been heard from EHDC and the lanes have still not been swept.
- HCC Communication – The Chairman confirmed that he had written to Rob Humby expressing the Parish Council’s concerns over the lack of communication from HCC in respect of planned Highways repairs/works. A response has not yet been received.
- Hedges on the corner of Mill Lane/Church Road – The yew hedge has been removed but the original hedge is now very overgrown. The complaint has now been escalated and the hedges will now be cut back by HCC and the homeowner charged for the work.

17/96 SPEEDWATCH/TRAFFIC MEETING

An Open Meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. to discuss concerns about speed and traffic issues through the village. The Parish Council will explore options for traffic management and controlling speed with parishioners as well as exploring the possibility of becoming involved with the Speedwatch Scheme – participation in the scheme will require at least a dozen volunteers. The Clerk was asked to advertise the event via posters around the village and source presentation material from Speedwatch, and Ian Janes.

Clerk/  
CL

17/97 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

(a) **Review of the Lengthsman Scheme** – As the scheme has now been in operation for a year, a meeting to review the Scheme had been organised with representatives from Sheet and Buriton Parish Councils and the Lengthsman, Nick Rook-Blackstone. A wide variety of work has been accomplished across the cluster but, for a variety of reasons, not all parishes have used their allowance of £1,000 for the year, and this issue needs to be addressed going forward. It was agreed that each parish should agree a longer list of jobs for the Lengthsman so that he can allocate work to maximise time efficiency. In addition, it was agreed that each Parish Council should nominate a Parish Councillor to act as the main link for the Lengthsman and explain the work required. It was agreed that Cllr. Jenny Martin would be the Lengthsman Link for Steep Parish Council.

(b) **Lengthsman Work Schedule** – The following jobs were agreed:

- Cut back overgrowth around road signage and village gates and clean
- Cut back Ash Tree next to the play equipment on Steep Common
- Remove redundant concrete posts (Burnt Ash, Church Road)

17/98 FOOTPATHS –

(a) Steep Marsh issues – Issues on Footpaths 501 and 29 (end of Sandy Lane to A3) were raised and it was agreed that Cllr. Martin would visit these areas and report back at the next meeting. JM

(b) On-going issues –

- Footpath 22a – SGS and District Councillor funding is being sought to enable the surfacing work to go ahead. A new quote is required from the contractor and the Clerk was asked to chase this. Clerk
- Stile on Footpath 26 – Cllr. Martin will liaise with Neil Bowery to ascertain who owns the land. JM
- Footpath 1 – HCC RoW Team are not willing for re-surfacing of this path to take place until the legal position has been confirmed.
- The Coach Road – An estimate for the work to repair parts of the path has been received in the sum of £2440 + VAT - however, some of the path is in Froxfield. The Clerk has written to Froxfield Parish Council to see whether they would be willing to contribute towards the cost of the work. A decision will be made once a response from Froxfield is received.

17/98 FINANCE –

- (a) Insurance - The renewal schedule received from Hiscox, and previously circulated, was discussed - continuation of the 3-year contract was approved.
- (b) The bank reconciliation for May, previously circulated, was approved and signed. It was noted that the current account balance as at 10.5.17 was £17426,42.
- (c) Cheques for June payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100128	£360.79	Came & Co.	Insurance
100129	£8.40	Petersfield Town Council	Dog bin – Steep Common
100130	£280.00	N. Rook Blackstone	Lengthsman (May)
100131	£11.60	HMRC	Tax
100132	£677.68	J. Hollington	Salary and expenses (April)
Total	£1338.47		

- (d) Asset Register 2017 – The Asset Register was discussed - It was queried whether the list was complete (the gates to Steep Common, Steep Marsh noticeboard are not on the list), and thought that some of the older items may now need to be assessed for maintenance. It was agreed that the Asset Register should therefore be discussed in more detail at the next P.C. meeting.

Clerk

- 17/99 MAP BOARD – The design and quote received from Metrosigns in the sum of £783.00 + VAT was approved. The Clerk was asked to liaise with HCC Print Shop to order a new map insert and co-ordinate with Metrosigns.

Clerk

- 17/100 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – The East Hampshire Association of Local Parish and Town Councils Meeting and AGM is to be held on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June at Four Marks Village Hall. The EHDC Community Team will be in attendance to talk about their role.

- 17/101 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.