

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 5th March 2012 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

There was 1 member of the Public present.

12/25 APOLOGIES: - Cllrs. Jenny Martin and Nick Hurst

12/26 MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th February 2012 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

12/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

12/28 PUBLIC COMMENT – There were no comments from the public.

12/29 COUNTY COUNCILLOR COMMENT – Cllr. Clarke reported on the following:

- There is to be no increase in the County Council’s share of the Council Tax this year – this will be the third year of unchanged Council Tax. However, there is likely to be 228 staff reductions in the coming year and there were 1400 in the current financial year.
- There is an increasing demand for school places in Hampshire and £30m has been set aside in next year’s capital budget for new school buildings. £45 million has been set aside for Extra Care Housing and £5 million for rural broadband.
- The scheme for giving trees to schools and Parish Councils to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee is proceeding well – to date 500 trees have been requested by schools and 50 by Parish Councils.

12/30 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMENT – Cllr. Drew reported on the following:

- East Hampshire has the lowest number of youngsters aged between 10-17 years entering the criminal justice system;
- Froxfield residents have complained of an increase in the number of lorry’s over the weight limit, using local roads and Stoner Road in particular - the number to ring to report this is the Safer Neighbourhood Police on 0845 045 4545;
- Broadband – Steep Parish Council as well as individuals were asked to register their interest at www3.hants.gov.uk/broadband/broadband-signup.htm – Cllr. Drew can then emphasise the local need;
- Fly-tipping – residents are asked to contact Cllr. Drew if reported incidents of fly-tipping are not cleared within a couple of weeks;
- Commercial bonfires – this is a compliance issue – Please let Cllr. Drew know and he will contact Environmental Health;

- There is to be a 2.5 % Council Tax increase this year (only the second increase in 6 years). This will equate to £3.28 for a Band D property (6p per week);
- Community Bus Scheme – Cllr. Openshaw requested the District Councillor’s support for an extra day (Monday) to be added to this scheme. Currently the taxi share scheme runs on Wednesday and Friday. Funding for this is an issue and is being looked into by H.C.C.

12/31 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SDNP/53051/001	2-Storey extension to side and single storey extensions to front and rear	Adhurst Cottage, London Road, Sheet, GU31 5AE	No Objection
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An application for consent for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order at Meadowlands, Pratts Lane in Steep Marsh had been received just prior to the meeting. As the Tree Warden is currently away, it was agreed that Councillors would meet on site at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday, 15th March to discuss this application.

12/32 FINANCE

The following cheques were approved – 100164 Jackman & Sons £200.00 (fallen trees on the Common), 100165 Glasdon UK Ltd., £140.65 (dog waste bin), 100166 H.C.C. £358.14 (Excavator Bridleway 16), 100167 Get Mapping PLC £48.00 (Parish On-line), 100168 J. Hollington £1,429.09 (salary and expenses).

12/33 PARISH PLAN –WORKING PARTY PROGRESS REPORTS

Feedback from the Sub Committees set up to consider responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire were reported as follows:

- **Traffic Management Scheme** – So far there have been only two volunteers and it is felt that more help is needed. Volunteers will be sought from Steep Marsh, Bedales, and Stoner Hill. Cllr. Openshaw agreed to take the project forward.
- **Common** – Cllr. MacDonald has recruited a Working Party to consider responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire. He hopes to be in a position to report back to the Parish Council at the May or June Meeting.
- **Village Hall** – The Parish Plan Steering Group have similarly requested that the Trustees consider the future of the Village Hall – e.g.how it fits into the community and whether it is achieving its aims. Councillors agreed to meet as Trustees to discuss these issues on 2nd April (immediately after the P.C. Meeting).

12/34 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The e-mail correspondence from Sam Pead of Network Rail outlining his reservations about the proposed crossing of the Shipwright’s Way at Tankerdale Lane, had been circulated prior to the Meeting. The Chairman was asked to write in support of Mr. Pead’s suggestion of working with H.C.C. Rights of Way and Shipwright’s Way Group to find a suitable alternative route.
- (b) Hampshire Police – The Chairman said she was pleased to report that Hampshire Police are now in contact with Mrs. Blyth and working to resolve the issues within the police reporting system.

12/35 RISK REGISTER – This has been up-dated and circulated prior to the meeting for discussion. Cllr. MacDonald said he would compile a written list of weekly checks for the play equipment (he is currently carrying out a visual weekly check but no records are kept). He also suggested that work being carried

out to the trees on the Common in preparation for the annual Village Bonfire and Firework Display should be included.

Cllr. Gibson was asked to review and finalise the Risk Register with the Clerk to be approved in time for the AGM.

12/36 GRANT AWARDING POLICY

The Clerk had circulated a draft policy (completed as part of the CiLCA qualification) prior to the meeting for approval. Councillors expressed concern at “advertising” the availability of grants and suggested alternative wording. It was AGREED that the Clerk should make the amendments suggested and re-circulate the Policy.

12/37 ON-GOING ISSUES

- (a) **Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebration** – Cllr. MacDonald reported that there is a lot of support for the idea of a party to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and several volunteers have come forward to help organise the event. A street party in Church Road (between the Church and the Common) has been suggested as well as the possibility of holding the event on the Saturday lunch-time (as opposed to bank holiday Monday) – these ideas were discussed and agreed in principal. It was AGREED that Cllr. MacDonald should form a sub-committee of volunteers and that proposals for approval should be presented at the next meeting.
- (b) **Community Bus Scheme** –Cllr. Openshaw had circulated a report up-dating Council on proposed changes to the Scheme prior to the meeting. Changes include - replacement of the Taxi Share with a 16-seater minibus, 3 hour stops in Petersfield as opposed to 2 hours, and consideration of provision of the service on an additional day (Monday) if funding permits.
- (c) **AGM Speaker** – The Chairman reported that Margaret Parren, SDNPA, is unable to speak at the APM but Doug Jones, Parish representative on the SDNPA, has volunteered to come in her place. It was unanimously AGREED that an invitation should be tendered to Doug Jones.

12/38 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS -

Commons and Hangers –

- The dog waste bin has been installed on the Common. Cllr. MacDonald will monitor its use.
- Joe Jackman has carried out the work to the fallen trees. Cllr. MacDonald will query the pollarded trees.
- Hangers Volunteer Work Morning – unfortunately this did not go ahead as the date had been overlooked by H.C.C. who provide tools and support.

Footpaths –

- Footpath 15 is still under review by EHDC
- The fallen tree has been cleared on Footpath 18.
- The fallen tree which has been left (rather precariously) at the side of the road in Ridge Common Lane and the tree left on the triangle of land at the top of Rockpits Lane were also discussed - Cllr. Bridger will look into clearing them.

Roads and Traffic –

- The Head Teacher of Steep School has requested a road sign at the top of Church Road, as visitors to the school often miss the turning – it was agreed that this is something for the new Road/Traffic Management Group to look at, as many people are opposed to extra signage.

- Speed watch Scheme – this is also something which can be considered by the proposed new Traffic Management Group;
- Pot holes – work is on-going. It is particularly bad at the junction of Mill/Ashford Lanes.

Steep Village Hall and War Memorial –

- The War Memorial is looking particularly nice in preparation for the Edward Thomas Memorial Walk – Rosemary Lilley is doing a wonderful job.
- The poppy wreath keeps falling down – Cllr. Openshaw said she would see if she could wire it into position;
- Village Hall Cleaning Issues – the Clerk was asked to write a letter to hirer's of the hall who are not clearing up after themselves properly, setting out exactly what is required. A general poster will also be displayed in the kitchen and hall and the situation monitored. The Clerk was also asked to write a letter of support to the Cleaner, thanking her for all her hard work in difficult circumstances.

Parish Plan –

- The Parish Plan Group will be ready to present the completed document to the Parish Council at a separate meeting in June.

12/39 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting will be held on Monday, 2nd April 2012 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.