

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 6th March 2017 at Steep Village Hall

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

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

There were 3 members of the public in attendance throughout the meeting.

Minute	Item	Action
17/35	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Nick Hurst and Luke Spurdle	
17/36	<u>MINUTES</u> – It was noted that the date of the HALC Annual Conference had been wrongly recorded and this was corrected. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 6 th February 2017 were then approved and signed.	
17/37	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
17/38	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superfast Broadband – It was pointed out that current internet connection in Steep Marsh is very poor, and queried whether the partial provision promised for late 2018/2019 is accurate, and whether there is anything the Parish Council can do to help move this forward? The Parish Council responded under item 17/39.	
17/39	<u>BROADBAND PROVISION</u> - A report on broadband provision in Steep and Steep Marsh, received from Mr. Glenn Peacey at HCC, had been discussed at the November P.C. Meeting because there are several pockets within the parish that don't have access to superfast broadband. At that meeting, it had been agreed to wait for implementation of the second phase, and then assess the situation across the parish as a whole and consider the way forward from there. However, it was felt that the implication of waiting until after implementation would impact on cost and suggested that the process should be started earlier. This means it will be necessary to ascertain how many residents are affected and this will be undertaken via the Steep facebook page/website and newsletter. <p>The District Councillor reported that Froxfield and Colemore are in a similar position to Steep, with only partial coverage, and they are in the process of arranging a meeting with B.T. engineers to clarify the situation – It was agreed that, if possible, representatives from Steep would also attend the meeting and Cllr. Drew was asked to forward details.</p>	ND
17/40	<u>STEEP FILM CHALLENGE</u> - The organisers of the Steep Film Challenge were present at the meeting to discuss dates and funding for the 2017 event. Following discussion, it was agreed that this year's challenge should be postponed until September to allow extra time for film production and sponsorship to be found. The Parish Council confirmed their support for the event which, last	

year, had been a great success and seen many of the younger members of the community taking part. The District Councillor and Hampshire County Councillor also confirmed their support, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would meet as Trustees of the Village Hall at a later date to discuss funding options.

17/41 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – It was County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke’s, last meeting at Steep before he stands down as County Councillor in May. The Chairman thanked Vaughan for all his hard work on behalf of the parish, his regular attendance at meetings, and his support. The County Councillor’s report for March is appended to the Minutes.

17/42 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT -District Councillor, Nick Drew, explained that the District Council has invested in property/businesses to enable a 2.6% reduction in this year’s Council Tax. Despite this reduction in Council Tax, 2 new leisure centres are due to be built and the Taro Leisure Centre will be renovated. It was queried whether there is an element of risk in the investment strategy, but Cllr. Drew confirmed that the risk is very low.

Councillor Drew also confirmed that the TAG Farnborough situation continues to be monitored, electric charge points are to be installed at Penns Place, Whitehill and Bordon, and Alton, and devolution proposals are dormant at the moment.

17/43 STEEP SCHOOL - Changes to the funding structure for Hampshire Schools mean a substantial loss of funding for Steep and other small, rural schools. Although the situation for Steep is not as dire as first thought, (Steep has been cushioned by extra special needs funding), it is a fundamentally worrying situation for small rural schools. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to Lou Romans to ascertain the actual position, before writing to Damien Hinds, MP, to express the Parish Council’s concern.

Chair

17/44 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

EHDC sweeping of the lanes – Despite promises, the sweeping of the parish lanes has still not taken place, resulting in blocked drains across the parish. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the District Councillor, expressing the Parish Council’s displeasure at this on-going situation.

Chair

Traffic Management on Stoner Hill – A successful meeting of the working party had taken place in February and a plan of action achieved. A meeting with Ian Janes will take place on 28th March at 4.30 p.m. to discuss and obtain his advice and agree focus.

CL/TC
Clerk

17/45 FINANCE

(a) The February bank reconciliation was approved. It was noted that the cash book balance at 10th February was £13,223.46, of which there is £3780.00 remaining of Lengthsman funding for this financial year. Steep Parish Council has £560 remaining funding to use up.

(b) A grant request in the sum of £200 towards the cost of printing the monthly parish newsletter was unanimously approved. The newsletter remains a welcome and useful source of local knowledge.

(c) The following cheques were approved for March payment:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100113	£33.60	Parish On-line	Get Mapping service
100114	£60.00	J. Street	Website (Jan - March)

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100115	£48.00	HALC	VAT Training course
100116	£460.00	N. Rook-Blackstone	Lengthsman - Feb
100117	£930.00	HCC	Cricketers Crossroad signpost
100118	£590.97	J. Hollington	Salary Feb + expenses £20.97)
100119	£200.00	Steep PCC	Newsletter - donation
	£2,322.5		
Total :	7		

17/46 AUDIT 2016/17

- (a) It was agreed that Tim Light FMAAT, from Lightatouch Internal Audit Service, should be appointed as Internal Auditor 2016/17.
- (b) The Statement of Internal Control 2016-17, circulated prior to the meeting, was reviewed. The document had been up-dated but other than that, there have been no significant changes during the year - the document was duly approved.
- (c) Steep Parish Council's Financial Regulations, circulated prior to the meeting, remain unchanged and were therefore approved.
- (d) Steep Parish Council's Standing Orders, circulated prior to the meeting, remain unchanged and were therefore approved.

17/47 RISK REGISTER – The Risk Register had been amended to reflect that insurance provision has been approved for a 3-year term, rather than approved annually as previously. No other amendments were felt necessary and the document was therefore approved.

17/48 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL/MILL LANE CORNER – It was agreed that, as well as the promised primroses, other native wild flowers would be planted in front of the yew hedging over the coming months. The Clerk will contact Kit Claxton-Wright to liaise. Cllrs. Cook and Bridger confirmed that they would water the new yew hedge during any dry spells, until well established.

Clerk
TC/SB

17/49 FOOTPATHS –

- (a) Coach Road – Cllr. Martin will liaise with Elliott Rowe about appropriate surfacing and ask Chris Budd to quote accordingly. JM
- (b) Footpath 26 (stiles) – Cllr. Martin will take photos of the stiles in question and circulate. It may be that the bottom of the stiles can be built up with scalplings to ease the situation in the short term. JM
- (c) Footpath 1 – Elliott Rowe has confirmed that HCC will provide materials to help improve the surface of this very muddy footpath, but he advises that the work should not be started until the summer months. Clerk

17/50 MAP BOARD – SGS funding has been approved. The Clerk was asked to circulate alternative designs, as currently there is an issue with water pooling at the bottom edge of the board which needs to be resolved.

Clerk
TC/PC

17/51 THE LENGTHSMAN – Unfortunately, the farmer's hedges have not been cut back as requested in order to enable the Lengthsman to access and clear the whole of the blocked ditch in Ridge Common Lane. However, it was agreed that the work to clear as much of the adjoining ditch as possible, should go ahead. The Clerk was asked to contact Joseph Lait, Hampshire Highways, to check that other blocked ditches in the parish are on their works schedules (Mill Lane/Rockpits). Clerk

17/52 STEEP COMMON – E-mail correspondence from Steep School regarding the condition of the football pitch was discussed. The Parish Council agreed that the work to improve the surface could go ahead and be carried out by the School.

- 17/53 OPTIONS FOR CLERK’S PHONE CONTACT – A proposal for a new telecom/internet package for contacting the Clerk was approved. There will be a small set-up charge, but the system will enable calls to a designated number for Steep Parish Council and Steep Village Hall to be re-directed via a sound file to the lap top, outside of work hours. Clerk
- 17/54 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
- EHAP&TC Meeting – Wednesday, 8th March at Greatham Village Hall – Simon Jenkins, Head of Planning at EHDC, will be in attendance to address issues raised at the last meeting. Members of the Planning Committee were urged to attend if possible.
 - HALC – Annual Conference for Local Councils – 22.3.17 – Councillors were encouraged to attend if possible as this would be a very useful and informative day.
- 17/55 CORRESPONDENCE – A letter from Steven Lugg at HALC regarding the Government Housing White Paper consultation on changes to planning policy and legislation will be discussed further at the April meeting.
- 17/56 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday, 2nd May at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall. It is hoped to arrange a talk on local flora and fauna by the Countryside Team. Chair
- 17/57 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 3rd April, 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.