

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Mrs. Caroline Robinson

**CLERK:** Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Jenny Martin (in the Chair)  
Simon Bridger  
Nick Hurst

Terry Cook  
Jim MacDonald  
Suzi Openshaw

Charles Gibson  
Graham Banks

In Attendance: County Councillor, Vaughan Clark  
Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There was 1 member of the Public present.

12/149 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Caroline Robinson

12/150 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

12/151 PUBLIC COMMENT – There were no comments from the public.

12/152 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke, gave a report as follows:

The Highways Department is shortly moving to new accommodation at the Amey Depot in Borough Road in Petersfield. Hampshire County Council has been awarded the title of Transport County of the Year, following Department of Transport tests on public perception on various aspects of Highways work!

Hampshire County Council is planning for emergencies – at the present time, the greatest risk is reckoned to be Pandemic Flu, followed by floods and then severe weather. There are 23,000 homes in Hampshire liable to flooding from rising groundwater, and in each area bore holes have been dug and the level of water monitored every 15 minutes, so that warnings can be sent out when appropriate. After the recent spells of very cold weather, when it was found that the use of 4 x 4 vehicles was invaluable, a group of volunteers have been set up for future emergencies. All volunteers have been trained by the police and CRB checked – at present they number approximately 110.

12/153 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – No report was available at the meeting.

12/154 CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE PROTECTED OAK ON STEEP COMMON

The letter received from EHDC setting out concerns with regard to the effect of the annual bonfire on the protected oak had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. Cllr. MacDonald confirmed that a series of measures had been put in place this year to restrict the bonfire but that careful consideration is needed as to how it will be managed in future.

The Bonfire Committee is due to meet in the next few weeks', and Councillors agreed that Paul Garstin should be asked to attend the next Parish Council meeting to provide feedback on this year's event.

It was also pointed out that the Village has been holding a Bonfire Event for 38 years and the Oak is still thriving.

12/155 FINANCE

- (a) The following cheques were approved: Cheque no. 100187 - £60 Mythic Beasts for website hosting, and cheque no. 100188 - £78.35 re-imbusement of expenses to Tree Warden for work to Steep Common.
- (b) The draft budget for 2013/14 was discussed and amendments suggested. The Clerk was asked to amend and re-send to Councillors for approval at the December Meeting.
- (c) Precept - It was agreed that this item would be considered further and agreed at the December Meeting.

12/156 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM STEEP COMMON WORKING PARTY

The Working Party was set up following the recommendations in the Parish Plan for “modest changes to Steep Common”. The main considerations were:

- To review seating to consider if there should be more and if picnic seating should be available;
- To review the play equipment to consider if it should be further enhanced;
- To explore whether there could be some modest and sensitive provision for parking, given the increased popularity of the Common as a leisure amenity.

Each of these items had been considered in detail and the Working Party recommendations for the following were approved by the Parish Council:

- **Seating** - a bench to replace the tree logs by the play equipment;
- **Play Equipment** – The recommendation was for no change to the play equipment;
- **Parking** –. The Working Party recommendation was that no permanent dedicated parking should be provided on the Common.

A recommendation for a circular seat around the Oak tree to mirror that around the Beech was not felt to be necessary by the Parish Council and therefore not approved.

Appreciation was expressed to Cllr. Jim MacDonald and the members of the Working Party for producing a well-reasoned and clear report.

12/157 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON STEEP SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN AND INITIATIVES

Cllr. Suzi Openshaw up-dated members on initiatives being put in place by Steep School to incentivise children and encourage car sharing and walking to school, to help ease the problems of parking and congestion in Church Road at the start and close of the school day.

Chris White and Richard Peach from Hampshire Highways have met with Cllr. Openshaw to discuss highways issues and are encouraging at this stage. Improvements currently being considered, which can be funded by HCC, include making the pinch point more solid with a larger oak post and marking one side of Church Lane with a white line.

12/158 TO RECEIVE AN UP-DATE FROM THE STEEP TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

Cllr. Suzi Openshaw outlined the work carried out by the Working Party so far – areas of concern include weight restrictions, use of sat navs, speed watch, rural traffic calming, road maintenance, Schools, 20 mph and use of lanes as “rat runs”. The Group are working closely with Hampshire Highways, CPRE and SDNPA in considering these issues.

Photographs of the type of rural traffic calming schemes installed in Buriton were discussed – these had been joint funded by EHDC, Hampshire Highways and the Parish Council and are very much in keeping with the Village.

It was AGREED that the Traffic Management Group should put together a proposal for Hampshire Highways (to be broken down into phases and costed) for further discussion and approval by the Parish Council.

12/159 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR A TRAFFIC MIRROR AT ASHFORD LAND/C18

A request for a traffic mirror at the end of Ashford Lane to assist traffic emerging onto the C18 was discussed and Cllr. Openshaw will follow this up with the Traffic Management Group and HCC.

12/160 VILLAGE NOTICEBOARDS

It was AGREED that the two new noticeboards should be ordered (funding is currently being sought).

12/161 KISSING GATES

It has been reported that the Kissing Gates on land behind Hayes Cottages (Footpath 13) are difficult for members of the public to negotiate because of the small space. It was proposed that the gate should be removed to solve the problem.

12/162 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors discussed the Village Christmas Carol event which is being organised for Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. A Christmas Tree from Bedales will be delivered to the Village Hall car park during the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> December and the Clerk will liaise with Councillors nearer the time to ensure someone is on hand to help install it safely. The Clerk was asked to talk to Paul Garstin of Pegasus Builders, regarding the possible hire of the lights used at the Bonfire and Firework event, and also whether Pegasus would be able to provide an outdoor electricity supply for the lights.

The Women's Institute have been asked to help lead the Carol Singing and provide song sheets, Steep School children will be ringing hand bells, and a list of volunteers is being compiled.

The Clerk will ensure that the event is advertised in the December Newsletter and Cllr. Martin will get posters made up.

It was AGREED that a collection on behalf of Naomi House should be taken on the evening – the Clerk to organise.

12/163 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

**Common and Hangers –**

- Cllr. Bridger attended the Annual Hangers Meeting at QECP;
- The spraying of the dogwood to knock it back has not gone ahead because of the wet weather;
- Rangers are continuing to remove the non-native sycamore;
- Cllr. Jenny Martin is to walk the lower footpath with the Ranger to discuss a proposal to re-route it to protect 2 beech trees which are causing concern;
- The Volunteer Day is to go ahead on 18<sup>th</sup> November from 10-12 noon;
- Cobbett's View Point was officially opened on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Footpaths**

- BOAT 31 – This will be closed from Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November for 1-week for work to take place;
- Footpath 18 (Hangers Way) at the Ashford Chase end is currently unpassable. It was suggested that this could be another project for the Parish Council if grant funding is available.

### **Roads and Traffic**

- Repair work is required following the work to re-lay the water pipes in Steep Marsh;
- Pot holes at the junction of Ashford Lane and Mill Lane as you head towards Rockpit Hollow are causing problems and will be reported to HCC for repair;
- Cllr. Openshaw has discussed the A3 noise issue with Highways because of the constant roar caused by the extra traffic since the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel.

### **Village Hall and War Memorial**

- The War Memorial was looking at its best for the Remembrance Sunday Service thanks to the hard work on Steep's behalf by Rosemary Lilley. Councillors expressed their appreciation.

### **I.T.**

- E-mail correspondence from the webmaster was discussed. Councillors agreed that they would like the Village Website up-dated in line with the Parish Plan website, so that it could all be managed together.

### **Parish Plan**

- There is still a large amount of work arising from the Parish Plan to be carried out by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Plan should be included as an item on the main Agenda in future months.

### 12/164 CORRESPONDENCE

The letter received from Cath Hart on art work "Telling the Story of the Landscape along the Shipwrights Way" was discussed. No action is required at this stage.

### 12/165 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

The next Planning Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall (if there is planning to be discussed).

The Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.