

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Cllr. Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 2nd November 2015 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

There were no members of the public in attendance

Minute	Item	Action
15/157	<u>APPOLOGIES</u> – No apologies received.	
15/158	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 th September were approved and signed. The Chairman requested that in future an action column be included within the Minutes to ensure clarity over who is doing what. This was unanimously agreed.	
15/159	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda – none declared.	
15/160	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> - None	
15/161	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER P.C. MEETING</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNPA Local Plan Consultation – Cllr. Cruttenden attended a sub-meeting of councillors from local parishes, to look at the Local Plan together. Following the meeting a response had been compiled, taking into account issues raised at the meeting and this had been circulated to Councillors for comment. No comments had been received and the response has been submitted to SDNPA. • Water Leaks – S.E. Water attended to repair the leak in Church Road - however, it appears that water is now escaping from a new spot a few meters further down the road. Equally, the water leak outside Willowmead in Steep Marsh has not been repaired – it appears that S.E. Water need to close the lane because of agricultural traffic, in order to carry out the work. The County Councillor agreed to chase these issues again. • Dark Skies – The paper explaining how members of the public can help in reducing light pollution is now live on the Village website – www.steepvillage.com • War Memorial – The gift token has been sent to Rosemary Lilley. • EHDC Transport Survey – The Chairman has contacted Christopher Blake and will submit the information in due course. 	<p>C Cllr</p> <p>Chair</p>
15/162	<u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</u> – The County Councillor’s monthly report for November is appended to the Minutes.	

Cllr. Cook queried Hampshire Highways’ continued failure to clear the blocked culvert in Mill Lane despite starting work in April. HCC are apparently unable to unblock the drain before the

spring because the silt is providing habitat for the food source of the local trout. Cllr. Cook said that, if this is the case, Mill Lane will flood again this winter and, if it is icy, salt will be used on the road and this will cause the trout to die! The County Councillor confirmed that it is the Environment Agency that have put a stop to the work but offered to look into the situation further.

C Cllr

15/163 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – The District Councillor reported on the following items:

- Remembrance Day – EHDC have provided a wreath which will be laid at Steep Church by Steep P.C. Chairman
- Grant Funding – Leader funding is now available and provides up to £35,000 for new rural businesses.
- Apprenticeships – funding, help and advice continues to be available for helping young adults find placements/work experience. More young people are needed to come forward and take advantage of the Scheme.
- Litter – clearance of the verges on the A3 will take place from 2-9th November and again in February 2016. EHDC have a zero tolerance campaign on litter – a £70 fine is enforced if someone is seen dropping litter. The role is carried out by an outside company and is proving so successful that it is about to be doubled in size.
- Fly tipping – instances of fly tipping are on the increase. Please report any details immediately to EHDC.

15/164 FINANCE

(a) The following cheques were approved and signed:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100054	£520.00	J. Hollington	September Salary
100055	£60.00	J. Street	Website
100056	£200.00	Steep PCC	Churchyard Maintenance
100057	£49.97	Rosemary Lilley	Plants/compost – War Memorial
100058	£540.00	J. Hollington	October Salary and expenses
100059	£346.77	Steep V. Hall	VAT return

15/165 BUDGET 2016/17

Details of actual to budget comparison figures 2015/16 and the proposed budget 2016/17 had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. This year’s figures show a current underspend for the 6-month period to date. It was noted that the cost of the recent uncontested election had been less than anticipated as well as predicted grant requests.

Projects for 2016/17 were discussed and include major footpath network improvement as well as production of a Village footpath map and walks pamphlet (utilising the £1,433 Parish Plan Reserve). A new project to improve village signage is also proposed. The current election reserve will be topped up to £2,300 in order to cover any future election and/or village referendum.

It was queried whether any allowance should be made for a Parish Lengthsman (Steep P.C. have their name on the waiting list to join this HCC initiative if the Scheme is extended to the next financial year). The Clerk confirmed that HCC credits each parish on the scheme with £1000 to help cover the cost of the Lengthsman and it is up to each individual parish whether they wish to top this up for further work to be carried out. It was agreed that pressure should be put on HCC to include Steep within the Scheme and that a list of jobs requiring attention should be compiled and presented to HCC. Mike Pillans, who co-ordinates the scheme in East Hampshire will be asked to

attend the next Parish Council Meeting to up-date Councillors on the situation.

Clerk

Following the discussion, the budget proposal for 2016/17 was approved.

15/166 PRECEPT

It was unanimously agreed that there should be no increase in the Precept request for 2016/17 and it will remain at £14,000

15/167 TAG FARNBOROUGH

The Chairman outlined concerns raised via the EHAP&TC Meeting with regard to the TAG Farnborough Airspace application and consultation and the effect this would have on leisure flyers if approved. The Lasham Gliding Society have put together a very effective objection, as has MP, Damien Hind and it was agreed that, as the proposals do not affect Steep, no response is required.

15/168 SHEET LEVEL CROSSING

The very favourable response from Tim Slaney, Director of Planning at SDNPA, to Steep Parish Council's up-dated statement on the proposed closure of the crossing, was noted. Fragmentation of communities is an issue that conflicts with the National Park purposes and for this reason the concerns of the Parish Council have been taken seriously.

Hampshire County Council have also responded to the Parish Council, stating that they have not yet been consulted by Network Rail.

15/169 STEEP FILM CHALLENGE

Two showings of the films have now taken place – the first a red carpet event in September and the second in October for those that had been unable to attend the first evening. In all, 13 films had been submitted and without exception were very entertaining and showed our beautiful parish off to perfection. It is hoped that the films will soon be available via a YouTube link on the village website, for those that missed them.

The Chairman said he looked forward to future Film Festivals and he hoped that further funding requests for the event would be looked on favourably.

15/170 STEEP VILLAGE HALL

Closure of the Jubilee Day Nursery – The Trustees of the Village Hall have had notice that the Day Nursery is to close on 17th December, after over 30 years.

Installation of the Memorial Poppy – Discussions with Ben Shaw, Head of Design at Bedales School, are on-going over the design for a display case for the memorial poppy donated by Mrs. Cook. It is very much hoped that this will be completed and installed at the Village Hall in time for Remembrance Day. If this can be achieved, there will be short ceremony at the Village Hall to unveil the poppy following the service at the War Memorial, and refreshments will be served.

SHLAA site request - A joint application with the Trustees of the Steep in Need Charity, for the combined area (the old allotments site plus the area behind the Village Hall car park) to be accepted by the SDNPA as having the potential for housing development, has been submitted. There are currently no proposals for any development but this will test whether development could be one option for the use of some of the land. The joint application will hopefully ensure that any

proposals result in a single and coherent future for this central site, which is owned by the two charities.

15/171 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL –

The Vicar will lead a short commemorative service as per previous years at 11.00 a.m. on 11th November. Cllr. Martin will liaise with Steep School to see if it would be possible for some of the children to attend, and Cllr. Thackrey will organise a bugler. The Chairman will lay the wreath on behalf of the parish.

**JM,
PT &
Chair**

15/172 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY

Cllr. Fairley reported that the Working Party have now held two meetings and are moving forward. Currently there is a long list of 19 potential sites. However, the group will continue to canvas for sites and a note will be included in the next newsletter and via the website asking landowners to offer sites. The group are now working on an assessment criteria to bring the long list down to a short list. Discussions will also take place with representatives of Bedales and the Trustees of the Steep in Need Charity.

15/173 STEEP COMMON –

- (a) Policy for use of Common – a draft Policy was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. However, the original version had omitted mention of parking – Church parking is permitted when the weather is dry and decisions on whether or not to permit parking is delegated to the Churchwardens. Following discussion, the amended draft, to include parking, was approved. It was noted that a permanent “No Parking” sign is needed to prevent parking in front of the gates.
- (b) Bonfire & Firework Night – The Clerk confirmed that insurance cover is now in place. As discussed at September’s Parish Council Meeting, the road will be coned from Bedales to the bend on the hill to prevent people from parking and blocking access to the Common for the duration of the event. Parking will be provided at Bedales and the Village Hall.

Clerk

15/174 FOOTPATHS

- (a) Kissing Gates on Footpath 12 – The kissing gates have now been given to the landowner for installation. No quote has yet been received for improving the condition of the steps.
- (b) New path at Steep Common – The Clerk has applied for an EHDC Environment Grant for match funding towards this project. As soon as this is received, work will commence on creating the new path across the Common.
- (c) Condition of stiles on footpaths 10, 11 and 2 – The Chairman has written to the owners of Stonerwood Park about the condition of the stiles on their land. Jim Hobson, HCC Ranger, has advised that there are spare kissing gates available from Hampshire. The Chairman will request as many as possible to replace dangerous stiles across these paths.
- (d) Hangers Way – Work to improve the surface of Footpath 18, Hangers Way, is now complete. Cllr. Martin confirmed that the path is now much more pleasant to walk and appears to be standing up to the weather.
- (e) Condition of steps at Shoulder of Mutton – This issue will be re-visited in the spring as there are currently no volunteers available.

**JM/
Clerk**

Chair

15/175 HEDGES

- (a) Dealing with overgrown hedges in general – The Chairman said that he felt that this should be dealt with more efficiently by the Parish Council and undertook to draft a discussion document in time for the January Meeting.
- (b) Cost of Hedge Cutting on Stoner Hill – A quote for £250 has been received from John Ellis to

Chair

cut back the trees and hedges on Stoner Hill from The Island to Hayes Cottages. An additional £100 will be required if he has to ask two people to help with traffic control. However, if the road is going to be closed for any reason (as last year), this would not be necessary. It was agreed that the Clerk should consult with the residents whose properties back onto the road and ask them to sort this out between themselves.

Clerk

15/176 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

- (a) Kerbing in Steep Marsh – It has been recognised that the sleepers should not have been installed on the corner of Pratts Lane and an enforcement notice has been sent to the landowner. Cllr. Spurdle will continue to chase this. LS
- (b) Signage for Church Road – Cllrs. MacDonald, Martin and Spurdle met to discuss the correspondence from Ian Janes regarding proposed signage. Currently there is currently no indication of time frame. Cllr. Spurdle will continue to chase this. LS
- (c) Steep Marsh Passing Places – HCC are happy with the current situation are and have no plans to improve the passing places. Steep Marsh residents and the Parish Council don't agree! Cllr. Spurdle will write to Mr. Janes and Mr. Pillans. LS

15/177 MEETINGS ATTENDED

- SDNPA Workshop – Local Plan – Cllr. Cruttenden attended this meeting as per report under Matters Arising;
- EHAP&TC AGM – The Chairman attended the meeting and relevant notes have been circulated to Councillors.
- Ashford Hangers Meeting – This meeting was attended by Cllr. Cook, Cllr. Bridger and the Chairman. A Volunteer Day is to be held on Sunday, 23rd November to work on clearing the Shoulder of Mutton – all Councillors were encouraged to attend

15/178 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman undertook to respond to the HCC Draft Walking Strategy Consultation

Chair

15/179 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- The Chairman said he would try to get to the HCC Economy, Transport and Environment Meeting on Wednesday, 11th November. Chair
- A Volunteer Day is to be held on Sunday, 23rd November to work on clearing the Shoulder of Mutton – all Councillors were encouraged to attend All

15/180 DATES OF MEETINGS 2016 –

A list of proposed meeting dates for 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to continue with bi-monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month with the exception of January which will be held a week later, on 11th January (to allow for the Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays). Dates for the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council will be agreed nearer the time. The Steep Marsh Meeting will be held on the first Monday in June - venue to be confirmed.

15/181 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 11th January 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.