

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 7th November 2016 at Steep Village Hall

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

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Minute	Item	Action
16/134	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Hurst and Spurdle	
16/135	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 3 rd October were approved and signed.	
16/136	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
16/137	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – There was no public comment	
16/138	<u>CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR STEEP</u> – As yet there have been no applicants for the role - the Chairman reminded Councillors to engage with, and encourage, parishioners to consider becoming a parish councillor.	
16/139	<u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</u> – Cllr. Clarke’s report is appended to these minutes.	
16/140	<u>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</u> – Cllr. Drew up-dated the Parish Council on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TAG Farnborough – EHDC continue to monitor this situation• Sheet Level Crossing – As yet, there is no sign of work starting on the installation of the full barriers – Cllr. Drew will notify Steep P.C. if there is any movement;• Devolution – The process is on-going;• Remembrance Day Wreath – Cllr. Drew is unable to lay the wreath at Steep Church on behalf of EHDC - the Chairman undertook to attend and lay the wreath;• EHDC Sports Awards – there is still time to nominate someone for an award• Litter continues to be an issue and is especially noticeable at the McDonalds roundabout on the A3. It was noted that the CPRE volunteer has been out and about clearing the lanes in Steep recently and the Clerk was asked to write to thank him for his hard work.	Chair Clerk
16/141	<u>FINANCE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The October bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed. The bank balance as at 10.10.16 is £20,843(b) The following cheques were approved for November payment	

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service	
100101	£35.00	Information Commissioner	Registration Renewal	
100102	£665.00	Nick Rook-Blackstone	Lengthsman - October	Clerk
100103	£16.80	Petersfield Town Council	Dog Bin emptying - Common	
100104	£250.00	Steep PCC	Churchyard maintenance	
100105	£1,140.00	J. Hollington	Salary - Sept/Oct	
Total :	£2,106.80			

With regard to the payment to towards Chuchyard maintenance, it was agreed that the Treasurer should be asked to attend a Parish Council meeting next year, to up-date the Parish Council on the Church's arrangements for on-going maintenance.

- (c) The budget proposal 2017-18 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. It was noted that income for the current year is expected to be approximately £5000 higher than budgeted for as a result of grants received and income from the Lengthsman Scheme which were un-budgeted. Looking forwards, there are no significant changes forecast and the budget is therefore based on the precept being retained at £14,000. Some nervousness was expressed at keeping the precept level because of the Government's proposal to extend precept capping to Town and Parish Councils, but it was agreed that there was no substantive reason for an increase.

The budget proposal allows for a continuation of the improvements to the footpath network around Steep at a similar level of funding (£3,000) to this year and the election reserve has been topped up to £2,300. The ring-fenced parish plan reserve remains untouched at £1,433 subject to suggestions from Councillors.

Following this discussion, the proposed expenditure budget and an unchanged precept for 2017-18 were unanimously approved.

16/142 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – In Cllr. Hurst's absence, this item was deferred until the December meeting

16/143 MILL LANE MAP BOARD – Cllr. Martin agreed to look into renovation options. JM

16/144 STEEP WAR MEMORIAL

(a) Remembrance Day – A short service of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial on Friday, 11th November, to be followed by coffee at the Village Hall.

(b) War Memorial planting/Mill Lane Corner – It was agreed that Cllrs. Cook and Bridger would meet to take a good look at this area and feedback their thoughts with regard to cutting back/replanting the yew hedging, at the December meeting. It was noted that £500 has been allocated within this year's budget if it is decided to go ahead with any work. TC/SB

16/145 ROADS AND TRAFFIC – Cllr. Bridger reported that HCC have been out to investigate the blocked culvert in Ashford Lane. No feedback on this survey has been received as yet, but it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Connor Morris at HCC to request feedback, as well as to ask why the Parish Council were not consulted on the recent partial closure of Stoner Hill and insist that, in future, the Parish Council are kept informed before any work is undertaken within the parish. Clerk

- 16/146 FOOTPATHS – A full report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is appended to the Minutes. The following points were noted:
- The fingerposts for the permissive path at Steep Common have now been installed.
 - The condition of the Coach Road is getting progressively worse – Cllr. Martin will liaise with Elliott Rowe at HCC about improvements;
 - Footpath 22a – This project has been deferred until the Spring when it is hoped that better weather conditions will make it easier to deal with the delivery of scalplings, without having to store them on land owned by Humphrey Holdings. A revised quote will be required nearer the time.
- JM
Clerk
- 16/147 STEEP COMMON –
- (a) Issues raised at Annual Inspection - Cllr. Bridger has purchased extra rails for the fence and will install them as soon as possible. The hedge has been cut back hard. Hard core and scalplings are now required to fill the large hole at the gate.
- (b) Steep Bonfire and Fireworks – the evening had been a huge success due to a large turnout and excellent organisation. The Chairman said he would write to Paul Garstin to thank him and his team for putting on such a professional event.
- TC
SB
Chair
- 16/148 SUPERFAST BROADBAND – A report received from HCC on superfast broadband coverage across the parish and circulated prior to the meeting, shows that there are currently 3 large areas of the parish which are not covered, although it appears that Steep Marsh will be included in the next phase. Options for improving coverage were discussed and it was agreed that consideration should be given to carrying out a survey on broadband speed within the parish in 2017 and feeding back concerns to EHDC/HCC.
- 16/149 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE – A working party consisting of the Chairman, Cllr. Fairley and Philip Mileham, will meet on Tuesday, 15th November to progress the Steep Community Resilience Plan.
- GF/
Chair
- 16/150 CORRESPONDENCE –
- EHDC – National Take Over Day with Steep School – the Chairman agreed to attend this session in Cllr. Drew’s absence;
 - HCC – Community Challenge Fund – Flood Alleviation – This was discussed, but whilst there are some areas prone to flooding in the parish, the short deadline and detailed information required meant it was not practical for an application to be made at this stage.
 - SDNPA – Review of Local List – noted but not thought to be of relevance to Steep P.C. - no response necessary
 - NHT Public Representative Survey 2016 – The Chairman will respond to this survey on behalf of Steep P.C.
- Chair
- 16/151 MEETINGS ATTENDED –
- Ashford Hangers Meeting at Queen Elizabeth Country Park** – The meeting was attended by Cllrs. Martin and Bridger. A volunteer work morning is to be held on Sunday, 20th November from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon. Meet at Ashford Farm.
- 16/532 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS –

Steep Parish Council – Minutes of Meeting – 7.11.16

- SDNPA Workshop – 14th November at the Festival Hall in Petersfield. Cllrs. Cruttenden, Fairley and MacDonald (as Chair of EHAP&TC) will be attending
- EHAP&TC – 29th November – This meeting is being held in conjunction with East Hampshire District Council at Penns Place. The Chairman and Clerk will be in attendance.

16/153 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will take place on Monday, 5th December at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.