

**STEEP PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN:** Jim MacDonald

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Steep Village Hall**

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

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

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
16/95	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – There were no apologies	
16/96	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July were approved and signed.	
16/97	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any interest in any matter on the Agenda. None declared.	
16/98	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> – A question arose with regard to the status of the scheme in the Steep and Petersfield areas. It was agreed that Cllr. Hurst would speak to his wife who is/was a representative of Neighbourhood Watch for the Marsh, to see if she could provide an up-date. This item will be discussed further at the October P.C. Meeting.</li></ul>	NH
16/99	<u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – The County Councillor’s monthly report is appended to the Minutes for info. <p>In addition, Vaughan Clarke confirmed that works to provide a footpath at Hayes Cottages, Stoner Hill have now been completed.</p> <p>The Chairman queried the process of engagement between Hampshire Highways and the Parish Council, as very often the Parish Council is not kept informed of actions to be taken by Highways to resolve issues (e.g. road hatchings at Mill Lane) - this is a very real issue as local knowledge is key. It was agreed that Cllr. Clarke will raise this with Hampshire Highways and report back at the November meeting.</p> <p>The water inspection hatch in Pratts Lane has now been leaking for approximately a year – various contractors have been out to look at the problem but have denied responsibility for the problem, which is now getting worse. Cllr. Clarke undertook to follow this up.</p>	VC
16/100	<u>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – District Councillor, Nick Drew up-dated the meeting on the following: <p><b>Devolution</b> – The devolution debate continues with two main proposals coming forward - a</p>	VC

Combined Authority (as favoured by EHDC) or a Single County Unitary Authority (HCC) – this issue is covered later in these minutes.

**EHDC Cabinet Community Grants** – Up to £25,000 is available to not for profit organisations in order to support community projects.

**Drop in Club at Froxfield Village Hall** – this club is open to all within the local community - Steep residents are welcome.

**Planning** – Cllr. Drew drew attention to a planning application for change of use of the lambing sheds in Soalwood Lane, in Froxfield, which could potentially cause an increase in large vehicles on Stoner Hill and therefore impact Steep residents. He confirmed that Froxfield Parish Council have objected to the plans and that the application may be referred to the Planning Committee.

**BOATS** – Stroud Parish Council has raised a concern over local BOATS (byways open to all traffic) and are considering an application for a temporary ban on off-road vehicles – Cllr. Drew will forward further details to the Clerk.

ND

16/101 RESIGNATION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR STEEP – The resignation of Peter Thackrey was noted. The Chairman said that Peter was disappointed to have to resign, but felt he was being pulled in too many directions with the demands of his new role at Bedales School. He confirmed that Peter is happy to remain as a liaison link between the Parish Council and the School if required.

It was agreed that the Clerk should notify EHDC of the resignation and advertise the vacancy as soon as possible on the website and noticeboards. If no bye-election is requested, the Parish Council will aim to co-opt someone to fill the vacancy at the November Parish Council meeting.

Clerk

16/102 FINANCE

(a) **Conclusion of Audit 2015-16** – The conclusion of audit 2015-16 by BDO was noted - no issues had been raised. The relevant documentation will be advertised on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.

Clerk

(b) **Bank reconciliation** – the bank statements for July and August were circulated and approved. The cash book balance stands at £15716.82 at 10<sup>th</sup> August (note – this amount includes £5,200 for the Lengthsman Scheme).

(c) **To approve cheques** – August payments had been approved by the Finance Committee/Bank Signatories as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100089	£800.00	N. Rook Blackstone	Lengthsman (June)
100090	£120.00	BDO	External Audit
100091	£1217.18	J. Hollington	Clerk - June/July + Expenses

(d) **September payments** – these were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100092	£60.00	Mythic Beasts	Hosting/website
100093	£60.00	J. Street	Website management
100094	£250.00	N. Rook Blackstone	Lengthsman (July/August)

100095      £570.00      J. Hollington      Clerk - August

- 16/103      NOTICEBOARDS – The quote for maintenance of the noticeboards received from Steve Lamont (who designed and built them) in the sum of £200 was approved. Once this has been carried out, options for annual maintenance will be explored.      Clerk
- 16/104      LENGTHSMAN – It was agreed that the sub-committee would meet to discuss priorities and this will be discussed further at the October meeting.      LS/JM  
Chair
- 16/105      STEEP WAR MEMORIAL – It was agreed to consider options for replanting the War Memorial and corner of Mill Lane where Hampshire Highways have removed the hedging. The Clerk was asked to liaise with interested parties to develop a plan to be considered at the October meeting.      Clerk
- 16/106      STEEP VILLAGE HALL – The theft/vandalism of the fencing around the children’s play area, during the summer holiday, was noted. DNE Services repaired the damaged area quickly and it now only remains for the Trustees to organise the painting of the newly installed parts of the fence.
- 16/107      ROADS AND TRAFFIC – Cllr. Spurdle will continue to chase issues raised with Hampshire Highways, including the flooding/ditches in Steep Marsh and Ashford Lane. Ridge Common Lane has been resurfaced, although not particularly well, and there are still lots of issues with the road.      LS
- 16/108      FOOTPATHS – A report had been circulated prior to the meeting up-dating Councillors on current projects:
- Footpath 1 – HCC is looking into the current status of this footpath. The overgrown hedging has been cut back by the Lengthsman and improvements to the surface of the path will be considered in the Autumn.
  - Footpath 2 – This path has been closed by HCC until the footbridge can be made safe.
  - Footpath 12 – The steps on Ridge Hanger have been repaired at a cost of £1410 – 50% match funded by SGS.
  - Footpath 13 (Hayes Cottages to Ashford Lane) – re-surfacing now completed – total cost £1570.
  - Footpath 36 (behind the Waterfall, Mill Lane) – re-surfacing now completed – total cost £880 – 50% match funded by SGS.
  - Permissive Path on Steep Common – Signs for both ends of the path are expected to be received in September. Cllr. Martin will continue to chase.      JM
  - Footpath 22a (Taylor’s Copse Farm, Steep Marsh) – An estimate in the sum of £3410 for resurfacing the very muddy stretch of path has been received from Chris Budd. It was agreed that alternative quotes should be sought. Cllr. Drew said he would consider a grant towards this project – the Clerk was asked to contact him to discuss this further.      Clerk
  - Footpath 26 (Natterjacks, Steep Marsh) – the stiles are not easily accessible. The Chairman said he would look into whether there would be an option to purchase Kissing Gates through HCC.      Chair
- Because of the significant sums involved in the footpath repairs already carried out, it was agreed that the footpath budget should be reviewed and an end of year forecast received before considering further work.      PC/JM  
Clerk
- The Clerk was asked to request further copies of the Rights of Way maps from Hampshire to aid Councillors in discussing the various paths.      Clerk
- 16/109      STEEP COMMON – Work to address the minor issues raised in the annual inspection report is on-      TC/SB

going. The trip hazard at the gate has been removed. Clarification on the handrails for the climbing apparatus is to be sought from Nick Adams. /JM/  
Clerk

16/110 DEVOLUTION – The HCC workshop on devolution had been attended by Cllrs. Cook, Cruttenden and MacDonald - the purpose of the meeting had been to get feedback from councils in general about deep devolution – i.e. how services would be delivered under a unitary authority. As there were approximately 100 people in attendance and the subject matter rather hypothetical, no real consensus had been achieved. However, there was a general concern expressed amongst smaller, more isolated parishes, that they may have neither the skills or enthusiasm to take on more responsibility.

The questions raised in the HCC consultation were discussed by the Parish Council in detail and decided by show of hands - it was agreed that the Chairman would feedback the information and complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

Chair

16/111 CORRESPONDENCE –

- Citizenship Notes from Steep School – the notes had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and it was agreed that the Chairman would write to thank the children for their feedback and respond to their concerns.
- Additional consultation on TAG Farnborough proposals – the revised proposals which will result in more commercial aircraft flying at lower heights over East Hampshire were discussed. Cllr. Drew confirmed that EHDC are firmly against the proposals and were urging Parish Councils, especially those directly affected, to respond. It was agreed that the Chairman should respond on behalf of the Parish Council objecting to the proposals.

Chair

Chair

16/112 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS –

- EHAP&TC – 14<sup>th</sup> September at Hawkley Village Hall – Ferris Cowper, Leader of EHDC will be talking on devolution, and Bob Coleman, Head of Community Services, will be presenting the Parish Charter.
- SDNPA Workshop – 14<sup>th</sup> November at the Festival Hall in Petersfield. It was agreed that Cllrs. Cruttenden and Fairley would attend. The Chairman will also attend in his EHAP&TC role.
- Ashford Hangers Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> October, Queen Elizabeth Park – Cllrs. Martin and Bridger will attend

PC/GF  
Chair

JM/SB

16/113 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will take place on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.