

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 5th September 2011 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Caroline Robinson (in the Chair) Terry Cook
Graham Banks Suzi Openshaw
Jim MacDonald Jenny Martin

In Attendance: Vaughan Clarke (County Councillor)
Nicholas Drew (District Councillor)
Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

There were no members of the Public present.

11/85 APOLOGIES: - Charles Gibson, Simon Bridger and Nick Hurst

11/86 TO AGREE MINUTES - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th July and the Planning Meetings held on 25th July and 25th August were agreed and signed as correct records of the meetings.

11/87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary

11/88 PUBLIC COMMENT

- An e-mail comment was read to the meeting concerning Foxfield Stables in Lythe Lane– Neighbours are concerned because the name has recently been changed to Foxfield Farm and a letter box installed, along with electricity and water supplies. The District Councillor said he would follow this up with the Compliance Officer.

11/89 COUNTY COUNCILLOR COMMENT –

The County Councillor reported on the decision by H.C.C. to procure Solar Photovoltaic panels on its buildings, taking advantage of Government cash incentives and reducing energy costs and carbon emissions. The total project could reduce the County Council’s carbon footprint by 1,500 tonnes per year (10% of the total).

11/90 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMENT

Nick Drew requested that anyone experiencing a problem with the District Council should let him know sooner rather than later and not let issues drag on. Nick said he would write a small article for the Steep and Stroud Newsletter explaining his role and giving his contact details.

He also drew attention to the fact that there had been several burglaries in the Liss area and urged residents to be alert.

11/91 CORRESPONDENCE FROM BJC

The e-mail from BJC regarding the land for proposed development behind Hayes Cottages had been circulated prior to the meeting. Their draft proposals were discussed in general, but it was felt that access to the land would remain a major problem as EHDC had objected to the proposed entrance and, unless this could be resolved, there would be no point in taking things further.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should draft a letter to BJC explaining that it would not be appropriate for a representative to attend a Parish Council Meeting at the current time for the reasons stated above.

11/92 COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING

Suzi Openshaw gave a report on the Community Forum Meeting held in July at which the new format for community funding was explained. She said that the impetus is now on the Parish Council and the general public to nominate project ideas for their village.

Councillors discussed several project ideas for Steep, including the possibility of re-surfacing footpath 15, mains sewerage, gas and broadband services. In view of the correspondence received about local bus services (see below), the possibility of a community bus scheme was also discussed.

It was AGREED that Suzi should contact the Community Forum and enquire about Community Bus Schemes.

11/93 TO DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REGARDING CUT BACKS TO LOCAL BUS SERVICES –

A copy letter addressed to Ken Thornber, The Leader, H.C.C. regarding the proposed merger of the 95 bus route to Steep and Froxfield with the 96 route and the reduced 67 (Petersfield to Winchester) service was discussed and the County Councillor read out his reply. It was noted that H.C.C. are proposing to offer a “taxi-share” or Community Bus scheme in order to ensure that villages are not left without access to transport.

It was AGREED that consideration be given to providing a village community bus scheme - Suzi Openshaw will look into the best way to progress this via the Community Forum (see item above).

11/94 SHIPWRIGHT’S WAY

Concerns over the condition of the path as it passes Kettlebrook Cottages were discussed. The Chairman reported that she had met with Cath Hart, the Project Manager, to outline these and Cath’s written response had been circulated to Councillors. It was agreed by Councillors that the impact of extra use on the path is a cause of concern unless H.C.C. will undertake a guarantee to monitor and maintain the route on an annual basis.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should write to Cath and ask her to come along to the October meeting to hear the views of the Parish Council.

11/95 CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Graham declared an interest in planning application 20100/067

SDNP/20100/067	3 x 3 bedroom detached dwellings, external stores, assoc. parking and landscaping	Bedales School, Church Road, Steep, GU32 2DG.	Objection
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11/96 FINANCE –

- (a) The balance in the current account as at 5.8.11 is £4,094.44
- (b) The following cheques were agreed in accordance to the budget and signed appropriately – H.C.C. (Bridleway 16)- £845.10, and the Information Commissioner, £35
- (c) It was agreed that the Clerk’s salary would be reviewed once she has passed(!) the CiLCA qualification in January.

- (d) The Parish Council AGREED that the Clerk should order the new edition of Charles Arnold Baker Local Council Administration from HALC. It was also AGREED that the Parish Council should pay for the previously purchased copy of Local Council Finance – a cheque for £14.75 to SLCC was duly signed.
- (e) It was AGREED that the Clerk should write automatically to unsolicited requests for money explaining that such letters would be considered at the end of the financial year.

11/97 TO UP-DATE THE MEETING ON TRUSTEES PROGRESS

It was AGREED that the Clerk should draft a letter to the Charity Commission explaining that, because of the conflict of interest, the Parish Council have handed the management of the Charity to new Trustees.

Correspondence from Hedley’s Solicitors regarding the transfer of “allotment” funds to the Charity had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. The advice states that the Parish Council has no obligation to surrender any money to the Charity. If the Parish Council wish to transfer a sum of money, it should be made clear that it is an act of generosity rather than a payment of sums due.

Councillors AGREED that the Clerk should write to the Trustees offering them a sum of £750 to help them get started.

The Trustees will meet again on 20th September.

11/98 USE OF MONEY HELD. FOR PROPOSED COMMUNITY SHOP

The Clerk reported that money donated by individual residents many years ago towards the Village Shop Project now amounts to £4,962 and consideration should be given to its potential use or return, where possible, if no appropriate use can be made of it. It was pointed out that the Cricketers Pub is about to undergo a change of tenant and that the plans for the shop to be housed within the pub may now be reconsidered.

Following discussion it was AGREED that the money should be retained until the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire are received to see whether there is any feedback with regards to a Village Shop and/or fresh proposals from the new tenant at the Cricketers Pub.

11/99 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Common and Hangers:

- No further progress has been made with the risk assessment for the play equipment but this will be put in hand during the next few weeks.
- Terry is unable to attend the Hangers Meeting at Queen Elizabeth Country Park on 11th October – either Jim or Simon will attend.

Footpaths –

- Kissing Gates on Footpath 13 (land behind Hayes Cottages) – Jenny Martin has been in contact with the land owner who would prefer that the gate is installed further back into the copse as opposed to in the field. It was agreed that Peter Coates and the land owner should meet to discuss the issue and select the right spot.
- A grant of £27,000 has been obtained by Jim Hobson (Rights of Way Officer) to improve the surface of Old Lytton Lane which runs along the top of the Hangers.

Roads and Traffic –

- The Clerk was asked to report an incident of Fly-Tipping at the bottom of Wheatham Hill.

Village Hall –

- Lead has been stolen from the roof over the main entrance and internal damage has resulted from heavy rain. Quotes will be obtained for replacing the stolen lead with an alternative and at the same time a quote obtained to replace all the remaining lead – Charles to action.
- The Cleaner reported an incident late at night which had scared her. The security light has not been working and will be repaired a.s.a.p. Consideration was given to employing a maintenance man. The Clerk was asked to follow this up.

Parish Plan –

- A separate meeting will take place to discuss the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire. Tuesday, 4th October was agreed if this is also suitable for the Parish Plan Steering Group.

11/100 CORRESPONDENCE – The Clerk was asked to send apologies for the Meeting on Community Engagement to be held on Wednesday, 28th September.

11/101 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – A Planning Meeting will be held on Monday, 3rd October, and this will be followed by a meeting of the Village Hall Trustees. The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 7th November.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.