

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 2nd September 2013 at Steep Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllrs. Caroline Robinson (in the Chair)
Simon Bridger
Charles Gibson

Terry Cook
Jenny Martin
Jim MacDonald

In Attendance:

County Councillor – Vaughan Clarke
Mr. Peter Cruttenden
Mr. Peter Thackrey
Clerk - Jenny Hollington

13/113 **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Nick Hurst and District Councillor Nick Drew

13/114 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 1st July 2013 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

13/115 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any interests should be recorded as necessary.

13/116 **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

13/117 **NOMINATION AND CO-OPTION OF TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS**– Two nominations had been received to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of Cllrs. Openshaw and Banks – Peter Cruttenden (who has previous experience of Steep Parish Council) and Peter Thackrey (who is Head of Modern Languages at Bedales). Both were in attendance at the meeting. The Chairman proposed that Peter Cruttenden and Peter Thackrey be co-opted to Steep Parish Council and this was unanimously AGREED.

The Acceptance of Office were duly signed and witnessed.

13/118 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – Although the County Council cannot have a stated view on the topic of “fracking” it has produced a very detailed 17 page document setting out the case for and against the issue – this can be found at <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/FAQ-oilandgas.pdf>.

A full copy of the County Councillor’s report is attached to the Minutes.

13/119 **FINANCE**

(a) Cheque no. 100266, £520.00 Clerk’s Salary was approved

(b) The Audit for 2012/13 has now been concluded - there were no issues to report. The notice of conclusion is in place

13/120 **EHDC JOINT CORE STRATEGY** – The modifications and consultation document was discussed. The proposal for 100 homes across 16 villages - of which Steep is included – was noted. The onus is on the Parish Council to find a suitable site. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Tony Struthers to see if he would be prepared to talk to the Parish Council about the pros and cons of Neighbourhood Planning (from his experience with Petersfield).

It was AGREED that the Clerk should respond to the consultation stating that the proposed changes are noted and that Steep P.C. believes that the Joint Core Strategy represents the situation adequately. Steep P.C. recognises that affordable housing is needed and supports this.

13/121 SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN – The consultation document was discussed and several points noted:

- A wide range of sporting activities are covered but there is nothing about horse-riding.
- The plan talks about high quality access to paths, but the strategy is unclear.
- Ashford Hangers are not mentioned.

It was AGREED that the Chairman, would meet with Cllrs. MacDonald and Cruttenden to discuss this further and respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

13/122 COMMUNITY SHOP FUND – Two proposals had been received for the £5,000 held in the Community Shop Fund for use in the community, both relating to the Charitable Land in Church Road –

- (a) The Trustees had requested a donation towards the new charitable activities
- (b) A proposal for a communal meeting point/summer house (sited either at the Village Hall or on the Charitable Land) was put forward.

Councillors discussed both suggestions but felt that at this stage it was too soon to make a decision as plans for the land are not yet known.

In addition, the Trustees of the Village Hall have been approached regarding the installation of an automated external defibrillator and it was suggested that some of the money could be used for this project. The Chairman is to attend a meeting mid-September to learn more about the automated defibrillator before a decision is made but if this does go ahead a contribution could be considered.

Seating has also been requested next to the play equipment on Steep Common via the Parish Plan Questionnaire and, again, this project would be a good use of the money for a community purpose. Cllr. MacDonald was asked to investigate costs.

It was AGREED that the money should remain in the account while proposals are investigated and considered further.

13/123 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE JULY MEETING –

- (a) Noticeboards – These are to be installed by Bedales – Cllr. Thackrey will follow up with the Grounds staff;
- (b) P.C. E-mail accounts – the Clerk will ask the web master to contact new Councillors;
- (c) Footpath 18 (Hangers Way) – Cllrs. Martin and MacDonald will liaise and follow up with Mr. Tweddle at EHDC regarding an application for Developers' Contributions;
- (d) Marquee on Steep Common – no comments/complaints had been received. A letter has been sent to the School requesting that in future they keep the time the marquee is up to a minimum.

13/124 RECREATION WORKING PARTY REPORT - The Recreation Group met during August and their report outlining both short and long term objectives was received.

High priority is to be given to Footpath 18 which is currently also a SDNP priority for improvement (as above). Other short term objectives are Footpath 20 (from the top of Steep Common to the bottom of the woods), Footpath 13 and Bridleway 21 (alongside Jack's Meadow).

Longer term plans include the creation of a path alongside the C18 to enable safe access to Footpath 12 and the possible re-routing of Footpath 4 (alongside Restalls).

The full report will be made available via the website - Councillors will consider the proposals and agree actions at the November Parish Council Meeting.

13/125 ROADS AND TRAFFIC WORKING PARTY – A report had been received from the Roads and Traffic Working Party and was discussed. It was noted that in Steep Marsh the traffic count is to be repeated as the original count took place over a bank holiday weekend and half term. Temporary and permanent repairs to potholes have been carried out and residents plan to meet with Highways to review traffic calming measures and their placement.

In Steep several repair works have been undertaken to roads and improvements made. Bollards have been replaced at Steep School and kerbing added opposite as a measure of protection for those crossing. A small build out is yet to be started to improve this further and lines around the crossing point will be painted. There are plans for more major repair works to be undertaken in Mill Lane at the Ashford Lane junction.

Yet to be repaired is the damaged kerbing along Church Road, and protruding ironworks on the north bound side of Stoner Hill which are causing problems for cyclists and motorcyclists. The Stoner Hill group are considering measures to slow the heavy flow of traffic down the hill.

As Suzi Openshaw has now stood down from the Parish Council it was felt that a Parish Councillor should become involved with the group. Cllr. Robinson will oversee the group for now (unless it becomes too onerous).

Several comments regarding overgrown hedges and site lines have been received by Councillors. It was AGREED that letters should be sent to residents where this is causing concern. It was also pointed out that parishioners need to be aware that if stones/logs are placed at the side of the road to protect verges and an accident happens, it is the householder that is responsible – the Clerk was asked to ensure this was mentioned in the monthly village newsletter.

13/126 STEEP VILLAGE HALL

- (a) Repairs and Re-decoration – Trustees agreed that the Village Hall looks fabulous and that DNE Services had done an excellent job. Cllr. Cook felt that the Trustees had failed to act soon enough in getting quotes and agreeing decisions, and that this had put a lot of pressure on the Clerk and DNE Services. It was agreed that this had been unfortunate but simply a case of bad timing as it was the summer holiday and delays were caused by the insurance company and the length of time it took for the Loss Adjustor to agree action.
- (b) Proposal for Automated External Defibrillator – this had been covered earlier in the meeting.
- (c) Position of Chairman of the Trustees – A proposal had been received that the Chairman of the Parish Council should not necessarily have to be the Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees – both positions can be onerous and it might be sensible to spread the load and ensure succession. It was felt that this should be considered further and agreed at the November meeting.

13/127 FORTHCOMING DATES –

- The annual bonfire and firework display on Steep Common will take place on Tuesday, 5th November – the Clerk was asked to write to the Insurance Company.
- The next Planning Meeting will take place on Monday, 30th September at 7.30 p.m.
- The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday, 4th November at 7.30 p.m.