

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 1st July 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Peter Cruttenden Terry Cook
Chris Laycock Jeff Graham Nick Hurst
Jenny Martin

In Attendance: Nick Drew, District Councillor
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were two members of the public present during the meeting.

Minute	Item	Action
19/111	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Simon Bridger and Kate Ashfield, and County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer.	
19/112	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 rd June 2019 were approved and signed.	
19/113	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare an interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
19/114	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – None	
19/115	<u>COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT</u> – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. The following items were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HCC have declared a climate emergency and pledged a bold action plan.• A budget consultation can be accessed via www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget.• HCC Children’s Services have been rated “outstanding” by Ofsted	
	Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report is appended to the Minutes for info.	
	Cllr. Martin queried whether there has been any feedback on the proposed repair of the leak at Lutcombe Pond - the Clerk was asked to follow this up with the County Councillor.	
19/116	<u>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</u> – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting Council business – Cllr. Drew urged Steep P.C. to promote the positive work being done by the Speedwatch Group via EHDC Communication Officer, Will Parsons. The recent installation of the community accessible defibrillator could also be advertised –• EHDC Planning Committee process – Following concerns raised by Steep P.C. Planning Committee with respect to the process for requesting that planning applications be considered by the EHDC Planning Committee, rather than the Case Officer, Cllr. Drew advised that he would be following this up.• EHDC Tree Programme – Cllr. Drew urged Steep residents to look out for this new programme which will be announced imminently - EHDC are looking to plant as many as 100,000 trees a year.	Clerk KA

- 19/117 SDNPA LOCAL PLAN – The SDNPA Local Plan will be formally adopted within the next few days. For Steep residents will mean a slight reduction in the settlement boundary – Island and Dunhurst will be outside the boundary – and the inclusion of the land adjacent to the Village Hall within the settlement boundary, making it suitable for development.

It was agreed that in view of the importance of this central site, it will be crucial for any development to be of the best possible quality. Cllr Graham was asked to engage with SIN Trustees on behalf of the Parish Council to establish a timeline for a thorough, well-advertised, consultation process. It was noted that the deadline date for submission to the September newsletter is 15th August and suggested that a map showing the new settlement boundary be included in the newsletter along with details of an Autumn public consultation event.

KA/JG

19/118 FINANCE

- (a) The bank reconciliation to 10th June had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed.
- (b) A grant request from Victim Support for £50 was considered but not felt appropriate at the current time.
- (c) The following cheques were approved for June payment:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
100262	£16.80	PTC	Dog Bin Contract
100263	£63.84	N.W. Adams	Play Inspection
100264	£1,437.50	Frank & Bill	Lengthsmen - June
100265	£694.99	J. Hollington	Clerk - June
100266	£1,500.00	Steep V. Hall	Donation for defibrillator
Total :	£3,713.13		

- 19/119 LENGTHSMAN – Work to be included on the Lengthsman Worksheet should be e-mailed to Cllrs. Laycock and Martin. It was noted that HCC contractors have not done a very good job on hedges included on the cutting list and the Chairman was asked to follow this up via the County Councillor

Chair

19/120 STEEP COMMON –

- (a) Quotes for repairing the bench have not been received – the Clerk was asked to chase this.
- (b) Annual Play Inspection – Councillors responsible for the Common will meet over the summer to discuss the Inspector’s recommendations in detail and will report back in September.
- (c) TPO Oak – Following a meeting between members of the Parish Council, the Tree Warden and representatives of the Bonfire Committee, it has been agreed to move the bonfire further away from the TPO Oak and to contain the fire in terms of size for future events. Approval was given to the purchase of 2 or 3 large magnets to help clear small items of scrap metal lying on the ash heap (nails, etc.).
- (d) Ash Trees – A concern raised about the condition of the Ash Trees will be addressed at the September meeting.

Clerk
Chair/
TC/JG

JG

19/121 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

Roads and Traffic Meeting – This meeting is being held on Tuesday, 9th July at 7.00 p.m. at Steep Village Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to up-date residents on the work being done by speedwatch and the impact this is having on traffic, and to consider options for the Phase II Traffic Management and gain resident in-put to the proposals.

Chair/
KA

Ridge Common Lane – Cllr. Laycock has reported the condition of the lane via the on-line portal on the HCC website but there has been no feedback.

SID – EHDC have confirmed that Steep will be included in the scheme to share a Speed Indicator Device with various EHDC parishes. The device will be installed on Bell Hill near the Dunhurst entrance for 2-weeks and feedback on results provided by EHDC.

Leaf Sweeping – It is still not clear whether Mill Lane was included in the village leaf-sweep – Cllr. Martin and Cllr. Drew will follow this up. JM

Hedges – Overgrown hedges continue to cause problems in the narrow rural lanes of the parish – the Clerk was reminded to write to residents whose hedges are causing problems. Cllr. Laycock will liaise with land/homeowners on Stoner Hill to try to organise hedgecutting.

19/122

FOOTPATHS

Footpath 13 – A quote has been received from Chris Budd in the sum of £2470 to resurface the remaining very muddy area on this well-used footpath. It was agreed to see if match funding would be available via Community Access at HCC and, if so, the Parish Council agreed that the work should go ahead. Clerk

Footpath 20 – The path at the bottom of the Common is in bad condition – the scalplings are now very worn meaning that the membrane is showing. This item will be added to the September agenda for further discussion.

19/123

MEETINGS ATTENDED

EHAP&TC – Dawn Hamblet, CEO of HALC, had talked about the benefits of HALC membership – she reminded Councils that they are entitled to 1-hour free legal advice via HCC. Specialist planning advice is also available.

Hangers Walk with HCC Rangers – This had been a lovely evening's walk at Happer Snapper to see the Bee Orchids and had been a very informative evening. The next Hanger's walk will be in October.

19/124

CLERK'S CONTRACT – The Clerk left the room for this discussion.

An increase to the Clerk's hourly rate was approved (to £15.50), to be back-dated to 1st April 2019.

19/125 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 2nd September 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

1 JULY 2019

1. HCC declares a **Climate Emergency** and pledges a bold **Action Plan**

The new Cabinet of Hampshire County Council met for the first time on 17 June. Top of the agenda was the issue of climate change and four deputations were heard from local activists. It was acknowledged that HCC had a strong track record on reducing emissions. The Leader Cllr Keith Mans proposed that the Cabinet agree to propose to Full Council that they sign up to the motion to declare a climate emergency. A bold and deliverable Action Plan will be developed to reduce emissions further and faster. This Action Plan would take into account the emerging recommendations of the Hampshire 2050 Commission which had looked carefully at climate change issues and was due to issue its final report and recommendations in the coming month.

Hampshire County Council has been tackling climate change issues for many years, both in terms of making Hampshire more resilient to changes already coming, and also to mitigate future climate change through reducing carbon emissions. This includes reducing carbon consumption by over 40% since 2010, seven years ahead of target; reducing energy costs in its buildings by £30 million since 2010; installing photovoltaic panels on County Council owned buildings, and delivering energy savings of £240,000 each year through street-lighting operations. By the end of the year, 80 new electric car charging points will be installed across Hampshire, and a programme is underway to convert the County Council's small vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.

2. HCC Budget Consultation

Hampshire County Council is asking for residents' and stakeholders' views on ways to balance its budget, in response to growing demands on council services and continuing pressures on local government funding. The consultation can be completed online: www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget

By April 2021, the County Council will be facing an anticipated budget shortfall of £80 million. With less money available and growing demand for council services, decisions will need to be made about what it can and cannot provide in the future. HCC is required by law to deliver a balanced budget and therefore cannot plan to spend more than is available.

The County Council would like to hear your views on the following options for balancing its budget, as well as any alternatives that you may wish to propose:

- introducing and increasing charges for some services
- encouraging central Government to make legislative changes
- generating additional income
- continuing to use the County Council's reserves prudently
- reducing and changing services
- increasing Council Tax
- changing local government arrangements in Hampshire.

Any changes to specific services will be subject to further, more detailed consultation, at a later date.

3. Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme

The UK Government has officially launched a new £200m Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) programme, which was originally announced during the 2018 Budget and aims to encourage an “outside-in” approach to building new ultrafast broadband ISP networks by focusing on helping to connect rural areas.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be in a rural area (as classified by DEFRA)
- Only group projects are allowed (a group being 2 or more residents or businesses).
- A group of residents or businesses or a combination of both can apply
- Applicants must have current internet speeds below 30Mbps

Funding available

- £3,500 is available per SME
- £1,500 is available per resident

- The voucher is to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections only.

For more information see <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/> where there is also a postcode checker to find out if your area is eligible.

4. HCC Childrens Services rated “outstanding”

Following a thorough inspection, OFSTED has rated Hampshire County Council’s Childrens Services as “outstanding” across all areas. This is a rare achievement and a tribute to the work of all the staff who work hard every day to ensure the best possible outcomes for vulnerable children.

In an unconnected but interesting development, the Government announced in June that HCC is to undertake the role of Commissioner for Children’s Services at West Sussex County Council. This follows West Sussex’s “Inadequate” judgement in their recent Ofsted inspection. The Commissioner role will be covered by a Statutory Direction from the Minister and will be fully funded by the DfE. It will be a challenging task given the severity of the Ofsted judgement in this case.

5. National Park Entry Signage project completes first phase



Bespoke signs that reflect the unique heritage of the South Downs and create a sense of arrival have been installed at 19 pilot sites at specially chosen locations at, or near, the National Park’s borders across Sussex and Hampshire. The signs will help people know that they are in a unique landscape that has been designated for the whole nation and deserves special care and attention. Every location has been carefully selected at key entry points to the stunning landscape and each sign’s size and design have been tailor-made to fit its surroundings.

The signs are made from iron or a mixture of wood and iron – reflecting the history of iron work in the South Downs during the 17th and 18th centuries and that the South Downs has the most woodland of any English National Park. The sweet chestnut wood used in the signs has been locally sourced from the Stansted Estate by English Woodlands. The white lettering reflects the iconic chalk landscape of the South Downs.

The public’s response to the signs is an important part of assessing the success of the pilot phase. After the first batch of signs were installed in early spring, we issued a press release which resulted in 12 pieces of separate media coverage in print media across the three counties, with a reach of over 220,000 people. The coverage was all positive. At the same time we went out proactively on social media and asked people “What do you think of our new bespoke entry signs?”. We had a large response with over 1450 liking the post and well over 100 comments. The majority of the comments received have been extremely positive comments on the design, their appropriateness for this important landscape and a few comments referring to it being ‘about time’.

We have been approached by a number of parishes excited by the project wishing to have an entry sign or a parish sign for their community. There are now 11 variations of sign so there is one for every location. Within Petersfield Hangers I hope that East Tisted and West Tisted will receive signs in due course.



RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers