

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 2nd September 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 Kate Ashfield

In Attendance: Russell Oppenheimer, County Councillor
Nick Drew, District Councillor
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were no members of the public present.

Minute	Item	Action
19/126	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Simon Bridger	
19/127	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 st July 2019 were approved and signed.	
19/128	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare an interest in any matter on the Agenda - none declared.	
19/129	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – None	
19/130	<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">• Hampshire pupils have achieved impressive results at GCSE and A’ level, once again beating national averages• The new visitor centre at Queen Elizabeth Country Park has opened its doors following a £1.2m investment to improve facilities.• HCC is playing a leading role in the Local Resilience Forum plans for a no-deal Brexit.• SDNPA have been named as the preferred bidder for the Seven Sisters Country Park.	
	Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Parish Council website.	
	The Chairman asked if there was any up-date on the repair of the leak at Lutcombe Pond? Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that HCC are in the process of obtaining further quotes for a common sense/low budget solution. It is hoped there will be an up-date on this item at the Ashford Hangers Consultative Committee meeting on 1 st October.	
	Cllr. Hurst queried the return on investment in respect of HCC purchase of electric vehicles and Cllr. Oppenheimer will request figures and report back.	
19/131	<u>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</u> – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speedwatch – The Steep Speedwatch Scheme has been promoted via East Hants District	

Council

- Cllr. Drew confirmed that he has provided a grant for the Steep & Stroud Newsletter
- Cllr Drew has received correspondence regarding speeding traffic from a resident living near the Tennis Club and querying the speed limit on the rural road. The Chairman confirmed that unfortunately the Speedwatch Group are unable to assist with monitoring speed on this stretch of road as it is de-restricted.

19/132 SDNPA LOCAL PLAN – Following the adoption of the Local Plan on 2nd July, it had been intended to hold a consultation event at the Village Hall in October to discuss proposals for the land in Church Road. However, the Parish Council has been informed that an application for a Statutory Review against the adoption of the Local Plan (specifically the allocation of the site in Church Road) has been lodged by a Steep resident in the High Court, funded by Bedales School.

Steep Parish Council expressed disappointment at the turn of events and agreed that plans for the consultation event should be put on hold until the outcome of the statutory review is known. In the meantime, the Chairman will write to the Chair of Governors at Bedales to request a meeting to discuss their actions, especially as they had not discussed their concerns with either of the Village Charities involved or the Parish Council before taking this action.

Chair

19/133 FINANCE

- (a) Audit 18-19 – The External Audit has not yet been finalised
- (b) Bank Reconciliations - The July and August bank reconciliations had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.
- (c) Cheque payments - The following cheques had been approved for payment in August by the Finance Committee:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100267	£16.80	PTC	Dog Bin Contract
100268	£119.60	EHDC	Admin for P.C. elections
100269	£72.00	DNE Services	Noticeboard
100270	£912.50	Frank & Bill	Lengthsmen - July
100271	£815.81	J. Hollington	Clerk - July + pay rise (to April)
100272	£87.50	Tom Morgan	Website (April-July)
Total :	£2,024.21		

- (d) The following cheques were approved for September payment:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100273	£21.00	PTC	Dog Bin Contract
100274	£1,187.50	Frank & Bill	Lengthsmen - Aug
100275	£60.00	Mythic Beasts	Website (domain hosting)
100276	£40.00	The Information Commissioner	Data Protection
100277	£738.33	J. Hollington	Clerk - August
100278	£45.78	J. Graham	Refund - tool for bonfire clearance
Total :	£2,092.61		

19/134 STEEP COMMON –

- (a) Quotes for repairing the bench have not been received – the Chairman will contact someone he knows to see if this is something he would be prepared to do.
- (b) Annual Play Inspection – Councillors responsible for the Common will meet to discuss the

Chair
JG/TC/

- Inspector's recommendations in detail and will report back in October. Chair
- (c) Ash Trees – A concern raised about the condition of the Ash Trees will be addressed further at the October meeting and, in the meantime, the Chairman will speak to Alex Stickley to see if he would be interested in clearing the wood. Chair.

19/135 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

Survey Data – It was agreed that the data could be given to a Steep resident who has requested it for analysis purposes and we would request that he works with the Parish Council road team who are currently in dialogue with Hampshire Highways to try to improve safety on our roads. Chair

Roads and Traffic Meeting – The Chairman reported that the Roads and Traffic meeting held in July to discuss a further Community Funded Initiative for Stoner Hill and Bell Hill had been positive, with residents in favour of the proposals.

He and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Joe Folland a few days after the Roads and Traffic Meeting to discuss proposals in more detail and had been disappointed to learn that the 30 mph can't be extended as far as Island because HCC survey data shows that speed is currently too high as it comes down Stoner Hill for them to introduce the 30 mph at this point. HCC are now suggesting that the 30mph restriction is extended to just above the entrance to Stoner House but that they are looking to introduce a reduction to 40 mph before the final bend on Stoner Hill and various options were considered (the proposed Village Gates at Island will help).

The Clerk will now progress the CFI application for the proposed works and a detailed and coherent plan of works required will be drawn up by HCC. Clerk

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 – An EHDC speed indicator device was installed outside Dunhurst entrance for 3-weeks over the summer and the results from this were discussed. EHDC have confirmed that the device will be re-installed during term time for comparison results. In the meantime, Cllr. Laycock will research the various options available to buy as part of the Phase 2 Traffic Management Scheme – the favoured option being one that displays speed. CL

Leaf Sweeping – No response has ever been received from EHDC about whether all the Steep lanes had been swept at the beginning of the year. Steep P.C. will continue to chase them to ensure that the lanes are included this year, and that they are swept properly! In the meantime, the Lengthsmen will be asked to contact Cllr. Cook re. the Mill Lane drain. CL

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 continue to liaise with land/homeowners on Stoner Hill to organise hedge cutting. The landowner on the opposite side of the road has given an undertaking to keep the verge clear if the trees and hedges on the opposite side of the road are cut back. It is proposed to ask a local farmer to carry out the work at an approximate cost of £300. Clerk/
CL

19/136 FOOTPATHS

Footpath 13 – The landowner at the top end of the path has confirmed they do not want membrane and scalplings used on the footpath on their land - this means that only the lower part of the path (to the kissing gate) can be re-surfaced. Revised quotes will be sought for the work and a grant application progressed. Clerk
JM

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. Cllr. Martin will liaise with the contractor who did the original work to see what is required to improve the situation.

JM

19/137 NOTICEBOARD FOR STEEP MARSH – Two quotes had previously been received for wooden noticeboards but considered too expensive. An alternative quote from Earth Anchors Ltd for an aluminium board in the sum of £910.00 was considered and approved. Cllrs. Drew and Oppenheimer will be asked if they would consider contributing £300 each from their respective grant pots towards this community board. The Lengthsmen will be asked to install the board once received.

Clerk

19/138 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE – The Parish Council’s current Complaint Procedure had been circulated prior to the meeting for review. It was agreed that the Clerk’s phone no should be removed as any complaint must be made in writing.

It was agreed that a new sub-committee should be formed to handle complaints (members to be appointed each year at the AGM). The Chairman and Cllrs. Ashfield and Laycock will act in this capacity for the current year.

Chair/
KA/CL

19/139 MEETINGS

SDNPA Parish Workshop – Tuesday, 29th October 6.30 p.m., Meonstoke – The Chairman and Cllr. Graham will attend this meeting.

Chair/
JG

Ashford Hangers Consultative Committee – Tuesday, 1st October – venue and time to be confirmed.

19/140 CORRESPONDENCE

- EHDC – Dog Control Legislation – Cllr. Hurst will complete the survey on behalf of Steep Parish Council

NH

19/141 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on Monday, 7th October at the Haste Offices in Steep Marsh – time to be confirmed.

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

2 SEPTEMBER 2019

1. GCSE and A Level results in Hampshire.

Hampshire's pupils have achieved impressive results, once again beating national averages.

This year saw the final rollout of the three-year implementation of 1 to 9 grade ratings for GCSEs - with 9 being at the very top of the scale and a pass grade being 4 or above. In Hampshire, secondary schools are reporting that 69 per cent of pupils taking the exams achieved a pass at grade 4 in English and mathematics, compared to 67 per cent last year. The 'attainment 8' outcome, which measures the results across the wider curriculum, has also improved from a score of 47.2 in 2018 to 47.6 in 2019.

The average A-level grade achieved moved up to a "B minus" from a "C plus" in 2018. Point scores (translating to UCAS points) across all types of qualification have also improved to an average of 35.5 at A-level (up from 33.4 in 2018).

2. New Visitor Centre for QECP

Following a £1.2m investment, the new visitor centre at Queen Elizabeth Country Park has opened its doors for the first time. Changes include an entirely fresh new look and reconfigured space comprising of a new reception area, shop, toilets and event space to hire. The café has a fresh new menu and can also seat more people in a larger brighter space (the refurbishment includes new tables and benches as well as a covered seating area in the courtyard).

There is new landscaping to the front and rear of the visitor centre while elsewhere there is new signage for exploring the park as well as improvements to the car parks. Lastly but no means least the kiosk at Juniper has been improved along with the toilets to match the new play area and assault course.

This is the third of four major investments HCC has made into the County Council's country parks following the successful renovation of Lepe Country Park in the New Forest and Royal Victoria Country Park. This work at QE will be followed closely by Staunton Country Park in Havant. These projects are ensuring that our country parks continue to be top visitor destinations in Hampshire but also become self-sustaining so that they can continue to thrive in the future.

3. Brexit preparedness

On 21 August 2019 the Government announced an extra £9m in funding for port towns, including Portsmouth, to make preparations to cope with possible no-deal Brexit scenarios. Some of this funding may come to Hampshire County Council to improve the resilience of the road network.

Hampshire County Council is playing a leading role in the Local Resilience Forum plans for a no-deal Brexit. HCC will continue to work closely with colleagues in other local authorities on planning for disruption at the Port of Portsmouth. Plans are well advanced and the implementation of plans is under daily review. In summary, a lot of work is going on behind the scenes to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum.

4. SDNPA declared preferred bidder for Seven Sisters Country Park

I thought it was worth reporting on the decision by East Sussex County Council in July to name the SDNPA as the preferred bidder in the disposal of the Seven Sisters Country Park.

This acquisition by SDNPA does have relevance for all parts of the National Park. Owning a Country Park asset will enable the National Park Authority to grow and develop new skills. It is hoped that the investment and the facilities will in time generate meaningful income which can be spent across the Park. Donations to the South Downs National Park Trust may also increase as fundraising campaigns are planned. And finally, it is hoped that the project will in time lead to further acquisition of country assets by the SDNPA over here in the Western section of the National Park.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers