

STEEP ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2017

DRAFT

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

MINUTES OF THE STEEP ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – TUESDAY, 2ND MAY 2017 **AT 7.00 P.M. AT STEEP VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Simon Bridger Terry Cook
Peter Cruttenden Nick Hurst Chris Laycock
Luke Spurdle

IN ATTENDANCE: Community Police Support Officers – John Payne and Alex Byrne
Vaughan Clarke – County Councillor
Nick Drew – District Councillor
Jenny Hollington - Clerk

There were approximately 15 members of the public present throughout the meeting

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Graeme Fairley and Jenny Martin

APM17/01 **Minutes of the last Meeting** – The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday, 24th May 2016 were approved as an accurate record and signed accordingly.

APM17/02 **Local Policing Up-date** – The Chairman introduced Community Police Support Officers, John Payne and Alex Byrne.

PCSO John Payne explained the roles and responsibilities of the Neighbourhood Policing Team working out of Longmoor. John's remit covers Liss, Froxfield, Privett and Steep and residents with any concerns can contact him via e-mail on john.payne@hampshire.pnn.police or via 101.

Residents are encouraged to sign up to www.hampshirealert.co.uk - a community messaging scheme, which notifies users of current issues in the neighbourhood and which is a useful source of information.

Crime figures for the area were discussed – in Steep (which includes Stroud, Colemore and Froxfield) this is mostly non-dwelling burglaries (14 this year) involving the theft of garden machinery, pushbikes, a quadbike and motorbike. Various options for deterring burglars by making it as difficult as possible for them to burgle a property were discussed – e.g. alarms, cctv, tracker fittings, timer lights, keeping ladders/tools locked away, locking gates, etc. Detailed crime prevention advice can be found on the Hampshire Constabulary website www.hampshire.police.uk.

John also explained about the Bobby Scheme which is a free of charge service providing home safety and security for the vulnerable and elderly in communities. The Scheme is run via a registered charity and helps to make homes safe and secure by fitting door chains, door and window locks, spyholes for doors and smoke detectors – details of this scheme are available via www.bluelamptrust.org.uk or telephone 0300 777 0157.

Concerns over speeding, especially on Stoner Hill, were raised and John was asked if had been involved in the Speedwatch Scheme? John explained that the scheme offers empowerment to the public to set up a speed watch system in their road and log speeding traffic. If the same car is registered 3 times, this will trigger Police involvement. The scheme can back up enforcement if it is identified that speed is an issue on a particular stretch of road. He said he would be happy to liaise with the Parish in this respect if required.

It was queried whether fly-tipping is on the increase? John said that the problem is a constant issue in rural parishes – however, it is very hard to prosecute unless you catch the perpetrator in action. Anyone who sees an incident of fly-tipping in action is asked to ring 999. If you see fly-tipping at the side of the road, it should be reported via EHDC.

APM17/03 **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman's report outlining the work of the Parish Council over the past 12 months is appended to these minutes.

The following items were hi-lighted:

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- The work of the site assessment team in identifying possible sites with potential for modest development – unfortunately, the process has been stalled whilst SDNPA finalise their local plan
- Steep Parish Council now has a Parish Lengthsman, Nick Rook-Blackstone, - this is a scheme funded by HCC whereby the Lengthsman undertakes various tasks along the lanes and footpaths (e.g. cleaning signage, clearing overgrowth/ditches, etc.) – contact the Clerk, Jenny Hollington, if there is an issue in any area of the parish that he may be able to help with.
- Roads and traffic – Over the last year some of the lanes have been top dressed and there has been an effort to improve the long-standing issues of drainage and passing places in Steep Marsh. The Parish Council is currently engaged with HCC over the issue of speed on Stoner Hill – it is hoped that we will hear from them soon about a possible traffic management scheme.
- Mill Lane Map board – Funding has been received towards a new map board, and it is hoped this will be in place soon;
- Footpaths – Steep P.C. have an on-going programme of improving footpaths in the parish. This year Footpaths 13 and 36 have had repair work carried out.
- On-going liaison takes place with Hampshire Countryside Service re work in the Ashford Hangers. Currently there is concern about the water leak from Lutcombe Pond and the Rangers await reports to find out what can be done to deal with this issue.
- During the year, Peter Thackrey had to give up his role on the Parish Council due to work and family commitments – the Parish Council were disappointed to lose him, but are pleased to welcome Christopher Laycock in his place.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for their hard work during the year, District Councillor, Nick Drew, for his support, time and knowledge and especially County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke, who is stepping down – Steep P.C. will his good-humoured contributions and tireless work.

APM17/04 **County Councillor's Report**

The County Councillor's full report is appended to the minutes. Items hi-lighted at the meeting are as follows:

- The Government Support Grant to Hampshire continues to fall, causing concern for Adult Social Care. As a result, the County Council's share of the Council Tax will rise by 4.99% to help cover this.
- Roads – Apart from the Isle of Wight, Hampshire has the lowest pothole count and compensation rate of any county in the South of England.

Vaughan said that he is standing down as County Councillor after 8 years. He thanked all members of Steep Parish Council for their time and effort in making life better in the parish and wished them well in the future.

APM17/05 **District Councillor's Report**

District Councillor, Nick Drew, outlined issues affecting Steep which have engaged him during the year:

- Sheet Crossing – Nick campaigned to keep the level crossing open and is pleased with Southern Rail's decision;
- Leaf Sweeping – It is hoped that this will be addressed via EHDC in the very near future
- TAG Farnborough – Nick continues to monitor this as it will have a direct impact on noise and pollution across our local parishes.
- Litter picking - Changes in legislation requiring roads to be closed for litter picking mean, of course, it now occurs less frequently. EHDC are trying to find a way round this and now employ litter enforcement patrols to stop litter dropping in the first place. Residents are urged to get in touch with Cllr. Drew if there are any particular problem areas.
- Fly-tipping – Residents should call EHDC to report any incidents
- District Councillor Grants have been given during the year to Steep Parish Council towards footpath renovation and also in support of the Shakespeare Festival at Bedales;
- A Cabinet Grant was awarded to Steep Cricket Club
- Planning – Nick continues to work with the Parish Council, residents and case officers to resolve any issues
- Superfast Broadband – Nick continues to drive support and focus on this as not all areas across the parish have access.

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Nick noted his thanks to Vaughan who, he said, was one of the busiest County Councillors in Hampshire, putting huge energy into the whole area and who will be greatly missed.

APM17/06 **Finance Report**

The Clerk gave a brief overview of the Parish Council accounts – For 2016-7 there had been a total income of £23178 largely made up of the precept (£14,000), Lengthsman Scheme funding (£6600), VAT refund (£427) and grants totalling £1362 towards a new map board, the resurfacing of footpath 36, and the permissive path on Steep Common.

Payments through the year totalled £19139 made up of footpath repairs (£4405), payments to the Lengthsman (£2680), noticeboard maintenance (£200), staff costs (£6760 + £450 Lengthsman admin), renovation of the Cricketers iron signpost (£930), general admin (e.g. insurance, affiliation fees, website, audits, etc.) £1665, VAT to be reclaimed £943. Grants were also made towards the Newsletter (£200) and Churchyard maintenance (£250).

Of course, these are very general figures and the complete accounts are available for parishioners to inspect if required and will be made available via the website following the audit. The precept will remain unchanged at £14,000 for 2017-18.

APM17/07 **Public Forum** – Members of the public were invited to raise any issues:

- Broadband – There are unconfirmed reports that residences in Steep Marsh will be able to connect to Superfast Broadband within 12 months;
- Litter – The hard work of the CPRE volunteer who keeps the lanes of Steep clear of litter was acknowledged.
- Speed on the C18 – Concerns regarding the speed of the traffic coming down Stoner Hill were raised. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council are engaged with HCC who are in the process of drawing up a traffic management scheme. The Parish Council also hope to set up a parish Speedwatch Scheme to monitor traffic speed on Stoner Hill, but this will be dependent on the number of volunteers who come forward. Details of this will be available shortly.
- Footpath – The issue of the lack of footpath from Hayes Cottages to Church Road was raised – the Chairman agreed that this is an important issue which would be raised again with HCC.
- Cricketers Crossroads – The Parish Council would like to be informed of any incidents at the Cricketers Crossroads to ensure that appropriate action is taken by HCC to improve the sight lines. Please e-mail the Clerk on clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk if you are aware of any near misses.

Following the public forum, members of the public were invited to stay for refreshments before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.