

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Jim MacDonald

CLERK: Dawn Rodgers

**Minutes of a Meeting of Steep Parish Council held on Monday, 16th January 2023
at Steep Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs. Jim MacDonald (in the Chair) Terry Cook
Charlotte Duthie Jeff Graham
Freddie Holmes Andrew Martin
Jenny Martin

In Attendance: District Councillor, Nick Drew
County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer
Clerk, Dawn Rodgers

There was 1 member of the public present at the meeting.

Minute	Item	Action
23/01	<u>APOLOGIES</u> – Apologies had been received from Cllrs Jonathan Turk and Nick Hurst.	
23/02	<u>MINUTES</u> – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5 th December were approved as a correct record of the meeting and duly signed.	
23/03	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda. He also reminded Councillors of the Parish Council role as Sole Managing Trustee of the Village Hall and of the possible conflict of loyalties between the two roles. None declared.	
23/04	<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> – None received.	
23/05	<u>LAND AT CHURCH ROAD</u> – The Chairman noted that it had again been a quiet month and there was nothing specific to report.	
23/06	<u>VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEE WORKING GROUP REPORT</u> – A report from the Working Group had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting and was read out to the meeting (Appendix A). The full report from the Trustee Working Party is appended to these minutes and can be found on our website.	
23/07	<u>CHURCH ROAD – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY</u> – Cllr Duthie said 4 volunteers (residents) had offered to join the working party so far. Cllr Holmes confirmed that a note asking for further volunteers would appear in the next newsletter. The brief was identified as “If the new houses are built in Church Road, what might we do to improve the road”. It was reiterated that CIL money might be available for any works, and also that the new	CD/TC

SDNPA Supplementary Planning design guide (<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/landscape-design-conservation/design-in-the-south-downs/guidance/>) may provide useful info.

23/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –

Cllr Oppenheimer discussed the content of his report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting (Appendix B).

Also raised:

- Highways – Cllr Oppenheimer advised the current weather conditions have wreaked havoc. Engineers have been redeployed from the design team to address this, including addressing the problems on Ashford Lane which needs a new solution. It was noted the pipes under the road would be owned by Hampshire CC and that we should continue to raise issues regularly if still ongoing.
- Cllr Drew asked when the next Parish Forum Traffic Speeding Group meeting was. Cllr Oppenheimer said there will be one, but not yet.
- Cllr Jenny Martin stated that we have numerous temporary roadworks signs around the Parish that had not been collected and asked how we get them collected. Cllr Oppenheimer said there is often a telephone number on the signs, so we can use that to request collection. Otherwise, there is an imprint on the signs, so please take a photo and email to the Streetworks team (streetworkseast@hants.gov.uk). Cllr Holmes said she would also raise Lisa Davis at their meeting on 19th January. FH
- Cllr Duthie mentioned that in Cockshott Lane 7 acres of private land had been felled and the lane is now incredibly damaged due to the large vehicles used to do this. Cllr Hurst asked if it was possible to find out the replanting scheme. Usually, a licence is granted by Forestry England and Cllr Hurst said he would follow up. NH

Cllr. Oppenheimer's full report will be appended to the minutes and made available via the website -www.steep-pc.gov.uk

23/09 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –

Cllr Drew reported on the following items:

- Litter on the Hangers on Stoner Hill and Bell Hill
It was agreed Cllr Holmes would email Cllr Drew to see what action could be taken, as this stretch of road would be too dangerous for volunteers to clear. FH
- Neighbourhood Plan
It was possible that EHDC would provide a grant for this, and it would provide a link to other communities.
- Planning Committee
At the last two meetings, developments outside of settlement zones and outside of SDNP were noted. It was noted that East Hants does not have a 5yr land supply plan which is not helping. Cllr Drew suggested we watch this matter carefully as a community.
- Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs)
Cllr Drew thanked the Chairman for introducing him to the senior officer responsible for BOATs. He is pleased to report the officer is now engaging with the County Council and SDNP. Please notify Cllr Drew of any problems in this area and he can liaise.
- Waste Collections
Other parishes had mentioned ongoing problems with waste collection. Cllr. Drew reminded residents to contact EHDC if bins are not collected. We can also inform Cllr Drew if this was on a large scale

- Cllr Duthie asked if Cllr Drew would advise having a neighbourhood plan. Cllr Drew said it identifies land and what can be done to it, but the process is incredibly expensive, usually needing at least 20 people including panels of experts and can take years to complete. This often means that once completed, it is already out of date.

23/10 ASHFORD HANGERS

Lutcombe Pond –

Cllr Oppenheimer said he was waiting for date of a meeting between SDNPA, Natural England and HCC. The Chair noted there is a fair amount of water running down from Lutcombe Pond bringing silt with it causing further problems. Cllr Graham said SDNPA have a chalkstream project of which they are proud, but SDNPA are promoting the chalk streams and not a dam.

Ash Die-Back –

No response has been received to the Parish Council's letter dated 13th December 2022.

The Chairman had not received any correspondence from Pete Durnell about suitable locations for replanting and will follow up. Chair

Cllr Duthie circulated an email and documents after the last meeting from Emily Roberts, Senior Project Manager for HCC Tree Planting Project. It stated there is now very recent evidence to show that "some Ash Trees are displaying signs of resistance to the disease and that not so many may die as we previously thought....so it's important to retain them so these 'super trees' can produce disease resistant saplings. This is being monitored so that opportunity for disease resistance is not lost and the character of the woodland is retained."

Emily did however provide information for planting trees using the Miyawaki method in other areas, and Cllr Drew mentioned £600 available for grants, but that also Emily might have ideas for applying for funding. Cllr Drew asked Cllr Oppenheimer if local councils found the funding would the CC support replanting and Cllr Oppenheimer said yes.

23/11 NEW P.C. WEBSITE –

The Chair said Parish Council Websites Ltd (PCW) has started work already, and asked councillors for feedback of what they would like to see on the new website. Once live, the clerk will update the website with support from PCW. The clerk will contact councillors for confirmation of contact details to include on the new website. Please respond promptly. Clerk / all

Cllr Graham also said the Village Hall website calendar has now gone live and can be found in the "What's On" area of the website - <https://steepvillagehall.org.uk/whats-going-on/>

23/12 LENGTHSMAN FUNDING 2023 –

This is still not confirmed but Cllr. Oppenheimer advised that he believes it is likely and the decision will be announced next week.

The clerk advised 14 hours were available from the current year's scheme and asked if any work was necessary. The clerk is to arrange the following work for consideration: Clerk

- Cllr Jenny Martin – the grips need cleaning on the bridlepath in Lythe Hanger (BOAT 31)
- Cllr Jenny Martin – the grips need cleaning on the coach road bridlepath (BOAT 33)
- Cllr Cooke stated the roadside furniture and gates at Steep Marsh due a general clear up (Rockpit Hollow)

- Cllr Graham advised the speed signs in Stoner Hill need the bushes cut back in both directions
- Cllr Duthie advised the Kettlebrook bridge in Lutcombe was broken. Cllr Martin advised this was not the Legthsman’s responsibility and she would report to the Rangers JM

23/13 ROADS AND TRAFFIC –

- (a) Phase 2 Traffic Management Scheme –
The SpeedWatch team has been processing data. Unfortunately, the download from the Cricketers / Hayes Cottages location is proving difficult due to a faulty iPad. Cllr Drew was asked if we could apply for a grant to replace it and he said yes. It was agreed Cllr Graham should pursue this and add hi-vis jackets to the grant application. JG
- (b) SID –
The Chair advised that from the data, 80% of road users were complying or were very close to the speed limit. Cllr Drew thanked the SpeedWatch team as this would be the result of the work being done. It was also suggested that, if we can’t retrieve the data from from the ipad, the SID at Owen’s cycles could be used in stealth mode to achieve this.
It was offered that Froxfield SpeedWatch team could come to Steep to learn more about our scheme. Cllr Drew will feedback.
- (c) Flooding –
Cllrs Holmes and Cook have a meeting with Lisa Davis of Hampshire CC on Thursday 19th January.
- (d) Overgrown hedges and overhanging trees –
Several areas had been reported around the parish. These were identified and provided to the clerk. The clerk was asked to write to those landowners to remind them of their responsibility to keep trees and hedges cut back. Cllr Holmes will also arrange for a reminder to appear in the newsletter. Clerk FH

23/14 FINANCE

- (a) Bank Reconciliation –
The December and January bank reconciliations had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.
- (b) Cheques for December payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.		Payee	Service
100492	£62.16	Petersfield Town Council	Dog Bin - Steep Common Oct - Dec 22
100493	£6.40	HMRC	Tax - J. Hollington
100494	£75.00	Tom Morgan	Website management - Nov - Jan 23
100495	£809.40	Jenny Hollington	Outgoing Clerk - January
100496	£1,290.00	Hart Landscaping & Tree Services	Lengthsman - November and December
100497	£314.58	Parish Council Websites	Deposit for new website build
	£2,557.54		

23/15 STEEP MARSH –

The Chair has invited the landowner to view the new noticeboard but has not yet received a response.

23/16 STEEP COMMON –

Cllr Andrew Martin confirmed he was successful with his grant application for CPRE hedgerow funding and will plant with the help of Bedales students on 6th March. This is approximately 120m

of new hedging. It was agreed that this would be used to plug holes in the hedging, around the carparking area, and in the path going to the school.

Cllr Graham will contact Chris Budd for advice on the disabled access and addressing the surfacing issues at the entrance to the Common. JG

23/17 FOOTPATHS – The new Community Engagement Ranger at Countryside Services (Hampshire CC) was noted as Megan Cledwyn. The Chair suggested he contact Megan to ask if she would like to attend our March PC meeting. Chair
Cllr Jenny Martin would also reach out to see if Megan would like to visit the footpaths in daylight. JM
Clerk to provide contact details to Cllr Martin. Clerk

23/18 COMMUNITY PROJECT (Swings at Hays Cottages) – No feedback has been received as to why the grant application towards installation of swings at Hayes Cottages had been refused by EHDC. As soon as this is received, the Chairman and Cllr. Graham will re-engage with Cllr Nick Drew to follow up. Chair /JG

23/19 CORRESPONDENCE – Correspondence, circulated prior to the meeting, was noted:

- SDNPA – Local Plan Review Update.
Changes of timetable were received.
- SDNPA – Extension to deadline for CIL applications until 3rd March.
Unfortunately, we would not be able to apply on this occasion. The clerk pointed out for future reference that EHDC CIL applications were open to parishes in SDNP upon providing evidence on how your project will support individuals from outside the SDNP.
- Petersfield Post Office Relocation –
The Post Office branch will continue to operate from the current location for the time being.
- HALC – Extraordinary General Meeting 23rd February 2023 at 6pm
Email with attached documents was circulated prior to the meeting. Feedback required by 12pm Tuesday 31st January 2023
- Photo ID required to vote at district elections –
Cllr Holmes will also arrange for details to appear in the newsletter FH
- Petersfield Food Bank
Cllr Holmes will also arrange for details to appear in the newsletter, the clerk will send to Steep School FH
Clerk

DATES OF MEETINGS 2023 – It was noted the May meeting now falls on the bank holiday for the King's Coronation. An alternative date will be sought. Clerk / Chair

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING –The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will be held on **Monday, 6th February 2023** at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.22pm.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS
9 JANUARY 2023**

1. Happy New Year

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break! With 2022 and all it brought now firmly behind us, let's hope for a more successful year ahead.

2. Schools news

The deadline for school place applications is 15 January 2023. Hampshire County Council is urging parents of children due to start school in reception year in September 2023 to indicate three school preferences on their application.

Over the last six years, 98 per cent of parents secured a school place for their child at one of their three preferred schools, with between 90 and 93 per cent being offered a place at their first preference school.

3. Consultation on revised Minerals and Waste Plan

An updated Minerals and Waste Plan for Hampshire will put climate change and biodiversity at the heart of decision-making. The emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy should lead to the emergence of a more resilient and reliable waste management system across Hampshire.

There are site allocations which form part of the consultation. Parish Councillors may have views on the proposed site for sand extraction at Goleigh Farm. This site is next to the Ham Barn roundabout between Greatham and Liss. I thought I should flag this up for Councillors.

The deadline for responses is 31 January 2023. The proposed updated plan and the response form can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update.

4. Potential boost to the status of Neighbourhood Plans

On 22 December 2022 the Government launched a consultation into proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

As has been widely reported, the Government is proposing to remove the strict requirement for planning authorities to have a 5-year supply of housing, with additional buffers for contingency. This is good news for East Hampshire – it will reduce the planning tension between the 57% of the district which is within the National Park and the 43% which is outside the National Park.

Less widely reported has been the proposal to enhance the status of Neighbourhood Plans such as those which exist in Petersfield and Liss.

The Government is proposing additional protections for neighbourhood plans in circumstances where a local planning authority's policies for the area covered by the neighbourhood plan are out-of-date. First, the Government is proposing to extend protection to neighbourhood plans that are up to 5 years old instead of the current 2 years. Second, they are proposing to remove tests which currently mean local planning authorities need to demonstrate a minimum housing land supply and have delivered a minimum amount in the Housing Delivery Test for Neighbourhood Plans to benefit from the protection afforded by the Framework.

These changes would give local communities more control over planning and I think this would be welcome news for East Hampshire. This is not yet firm policy but it would certainly help if the government were to receive a balance of favourable comments in the consultation.

Should you wish to, you can read and respond to the consultation at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>

5. Local Government Finance Settlement

On 19 December 2022 the Government published the Local Government Finance Settlement for the coming financial year 2023/2024.

On the positive side, there was an additional £2bn of funding for social care in recognition of the unprecedented pressures which County Councils are facing. There is also an additional £100m to help support the most vulnerable households

The referendum threshold for Council Tax increases will be 3% for April 2023 with an additional 2% for social care.

This extra funding is certainly helpful. However there is still a projected gap of around £50m in the budget for the coming financial year at HCC. Looking two years ahead to 2025/2026 we face a projected annual shortfall of around £180m.

Inflation and increased demand in the post-pandemic period have combined to create a highly challenging financial environment for all County Councils in England. Hampshire County Council is in a better position than most County Councils and we continue to have the capability to invest in vital new infrastructure. Despite our relative strength, HCC still faces difficult decisions later in 2023 unless there are major changes to the way local government is funded in England.

6. East Hampshire projects benefit from National Park CIL funding

You may recall that Steep, Greatham and Froxfield & Privett Parishes received £10,000 each in the 2021 CIL round towards village highway improvement schemes.

I am pleased to report that many Parishes in the Petersfield Hangers did well from the 2022 round of SDNPA Community Infrastructure Levy funding. Beyond the Hangers there are also welcome awards elsewhere in East Hampshire. It is noticeable that EHDC has done better than Winchester City Council! The full list of projects receiving funding in Hampshire is as follows:

Liss – Newman Collard Recreation Improvements – outdoor fitness equipment and Multi-use Games Area. £118,000

Marwell to Winchester Bridleways – upgrade network of Bridleways in and around Marwell Zoo and Hotel – up to 1.5km of surfacing and drainage works (linked to future project to deliver off-road link from Marwell to Winchester) £100,000

Greatham Village Hall Recreation Ground – creation of all-inclusive accessible playground to replace existing playground. £90,000

Buriton Village Hall Enhancements – energy efficiency improvements – potential for 12kw solar PV and provision of two fast-charge EV charging points. £50,000

Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Clanfield – Changing Places Toilet. £40,000

Selborne – Traffic calming scheme – improve entrances to Selborne and widen footways £40,000

The Petersfield School – installation of Climbing Wall that will also be open to community groups £29,000

Access Improvements to the Watercress Way, Winchester (such as re-profiling of land, installation of hand rails and changes to existing ramps) – £20,000

Meonstoke C of E Infant School – To improve a wooded area and bark pathways within the school grounds. £18,000

East Tisted – Highway improvements including review and reduction of existing highway signs, bespoke village gateway signs and new fingerposts) £15,000

East Meon – Highway improvements including review and reduction of existing highway signs, bespoke village gateway signs and new fingerposts. £15,000

Sheet – Highway improvements including reduction of junction with Village Green, various measures on London Road – improved crossing points, and decluttering of signage. £15,000

Twyford – Flood Alleviation Scheme (to fund Phase 1 – construct 115m length ditch to replace 90m section of pipe on Hazeley Road). £8,748.26

I look forward to seeing many of you later this month.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Steep Parish Council

Report from Trustee Working Group to Steep Parish Council January 2023

At the last trustee meeting of the year, it was agreed that the working group would obtain two further quotes from Highways Consultants for handling the Village Hall pre-app, when it is required. These have been received and the working group has reviewed these alongside the original quote. Their recommendations will go to the meeting of the Village Hall Trustees on 23rd January and will be reported on for the February Parish Council meeting.

Last week, two members of the working group met with Stuart Wilson to discuss the current situation and to ascertain his willingness to support work on the hall land, if things progress. Stuart confirmed that WDH submitted the second and more detailed Pre-App to the SDNPA in late November/early December. This is now in their hands. He expressed his willingness to work with the trustees when required. More details will be available once the Trustees have had their meeting.

The working group has met last week, on 10/01/23. Members of the group received an update on the meeting with Stuart. The potential to expand the group was discussed, as three residents had responded positively to the possibility of joining. A list of roles for the group was discussed and a possible allocation of responsibilities. Members of the group were asked to think about these and confirm their preferences before the next meeting. It was decided to ask the potential members what skills they could bring to the group in order to assign appropriate roles to members.

The Trustees' 3 year business plan was discussed. It was noted that some introductory narrative was needed together with some costings for the extension and the various other works required around the building. This is work in progress.

The future of the car parking for the hall was discussed and a report on the conclusions will follow after the Trustees have met.

It was agreed that the immediate priority was for the work associated with the new public open space. Trustees will decide how and when to proceed at their meeting on 23rd January.

Jenny Martin
Chair Trustee Working Group