

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN Mr Richard Coles

CLERK Mrs Jenny Hollington
01730 267784

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON TUESDAY, 11TH MAY 2010 AT
STEEP VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Richard Coles (in the Chair) Caroline Robinson Charles Gibson
Fran Box David Llewellyn Terry Cook
Jenny Martin Nick Hurst

In Attendance: Jennifer Gray (District Councillor)
Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

12 Members of the Public were present

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jo Bell and Vaughan Clarke, County Councillor

APM10/01 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12th May 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.

APM10/02 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman described the past year as being "rather difficult" - not only for Councillors but also Steep residents - because of the depth of feeling with regard to affordable housing. However, the Public Exhibition to enable residents to view proposed plans had been well received and it is hoped that the result of the Village Ballot will enable a conclusion to be reached as he felt the situation has dragged on for far too long.

He said that in general much has also been achieved during the year including a new map board - thanks for which are due to Jenny Martin. Drake Hocking, the Tree Warden, is working very hard to rejuvenate the woodland attached to the Common. Caroline Robinson and David Llewellyn continue to monitor the problems of pot holes and drainage on the Village's roads, and new speed restrictions will be in place on some of our roads before too long. The Working Parties on the Hangers have been very successful and Lutcombe Pond is now looking much improved. The War Memorial has been lovingly tended by Rosemary Lilley and is much admired by many people. The Village Hall continues to be well used and regular bookings keep it in a sound financial state.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the District and County Councillor and the Clerk and Parish Councillors for their support. He said that although he had very much enjoyed his time in Office, it is time for a new face in the Chair and reiterated his intention to stand down at the AGM.

APM10/03 **FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk gave a brief overview of the accounts to the meeting as follows: The figures as at 31st March 2010 are:

Co-operative Bank (Current Account)	£ 592.00
H.C.C. (Deposit Account)	£19,199.00

The Parish Council gave donations of £300 for the Newsletter and £200 for churchyard maintenance to Steep P.C.C. and £75 to Petersfield Neighbourhood Watch. Income included the precept of £6,000, £180 for the lease of allotment land and a VAT rebate of £2,982.51.

The main outgoings were £1,737.50 on legal fees, £986 for repairs on the Common and £499.14 for the Volunteer Day. The Clerk said that the full accounts were available at the meeting for people to look at.

APM10/04 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Although unable to be present, the County Councillor's report was read to the meeting –

- The County Council has been able to keep the Council Tax increase to 1.9% and is one of only 3 counties awarded top rating by the Audit Commission;
- Hampshire spends £1.83 bn on services - departments with the largest spend were outlined;
- Roads are the most contentious issue and an extra £12.5 m is being added to the Highways budget this year for road improvements.

In his report the County Councillor also said that he had enjoyed his first year in post and was impressed with the amount of dedicated work undertaken by all Parish representatives.

APM10/05 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The District Councillor said that there are to be some considerable changes to Community Forums, details of which will follow in due course. An agreement has been reached with Winchester County Council over a new Waste Contract, although there should be no noticeable change.

With regard to Steep's housing issues – it was explained that, although a second site at Bedales has been discussed, nothing further has been achieved. Jennifer added that she thought the Public Exhibition had been extremely good. However, she asked for it to be Minuted that she is not prepared to be publicly harangued as she was at the Exhibition - Jennifer felt this sort of behaviour was quite unnecessary and unacceptable.

She closed by thanking Richard for his unfailing courtesy and help over the years and also the rest of the Parish Council.

APM10/06 PUBLIC COMMENT

- The Chairman was asked to reconsider his decision to stand down at the AGM – in reply Richard Coles said he felt that someone else should take over as he would not be seeking re-election next year;
- It was pointed out that the Hangers Way Footpath between the Church and Petersfield is in a terrible state – Jenny Martin to follow up.
- Concern was raised over the plans for land being cleared between Mill Lane and the Water House and the effect this will have on the wild life on the lakes – Jenny Martin to follow up;

Parish Councillors presented Sue Coles with flowers and thanked her for her help and support over the years.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.