

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 1st July 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in Steep Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Caroline Robinson (in the Chair)
Jenny Martin
Charles Gibson

Nick Hurst
Graham Banks

Terry Cook
Jim MacDonald

In Attendance: Clerk - Jenny Hollington

No members of the public were present.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors to the meeting and drew their attention to the Petersfield Society President's Award for Projects of Special Merit which was awarded to the Steep Parish Plan Steering Group for their work on the Parish Plan. The wooden owl had been presented to the Group at the Society's last meeting (and loaned to the Parish Council for the meeting). The Chairman said she was delighted that the Group had received this well-deserved recognition.

13/89 APOLOGIES – Cllr. Simon Bridger, County Councillor Vaughan Clarke and District Councillor Nick Drew

13/90 MINUTES: - The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 3rd June 2013 were approved and signed accordingly.

13/91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - The Chairman reminded Councillors that any pecuniary interests should be recorded as necessary.

13/92 PUBLIC COMMENT – None

13/93 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - A report received from County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting and is attached to the Minutes.

13/94 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - District Councillor, Nick Drew, had e-mailed an up-date on the following issues:

- Brickyards Industrial Estate – Cllr. Drew had been unable to attend the site visit for medical reasons, but had made members of the Planning Committee aware of issues beforehand;
- Traffic Survey in Steep Marsh – Hampshire Highways will run another survey as a priority if requested by the Parish Council, but they found no errors in the previous survey findings.
- Recycling Information – this had been sent to the Village Hall and was handed out to Councillors;
- Dog Warden – Cllr. Drew is in discussion with the CEO for EHDC over a lack of support in the ward – any issues should be made known to him. It was noted that dog fouling has been a problem in Church Road recently – details will be reported. The dog waste bin on the Common is still being emptied fortnightly by Cllr. MacDonald and he is prepared to continue on this basis.

13/95 FINANCE

(a) The following cheques were approved:

100261	Jonathon Street (website)	£ 60.00
100262	J. Hollington (salary)	£416.00
100263	HMRC (tax)	£104.00

It was AGREED that authority for signing August cheques should be delegated to Cllrs. Robinson, Cook and MacDonald.

- (b) Co-Operative Bank – Nothing further to report – the Clerk will continue to monitor the situation
- (c) Community Shop Project Fund – An advert has been placed in the monthly Newsletter inviting ideas for community projects from parishioners. So far, one request from the Trustees of the Allotment Land has been received. This item will be considered again at the September meeting when there will have been plenty of time for responses.

13/96 RESIGNATION OF TWO PARISH COUNCILLORS

Resignations have been received from Cllr. Banks (who is moving to Devon) and Cllr. Openshaw (for family reasons). The Chairman said she was very sorry to lose them both and was grateful for their hard work during the past two years. The vacancies are being advertised on the noticeboards and the website and EHDC have been notified.

Cllr. Openshaw has said she would like to continue on the Roads and Traffic Working Party although a Parish Councillor will be required to oversee the Group – this will be discussed further at the September Meeting and a Councillor nominated.

13/97 PC E-MAIL ACCOUNTS

Cllr. Hurst reported that the Roundcube webmail system is a much better system than the current Squirrel mail and it is easy to follow the instructions to set it up via the link in the Webmaster's e-mail. The Chairman urged all Councillors to set up the new system over the summer and confirm they have set it up in September.

13/98 BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS

The proposal to trial a return to bi-monthly Parish Council Meetings was AGREED

13/99 NOTICEBOARDS

There has still been no response from EHDC with regard to the application for use of Developers Contributions for this project. The Chairman said she would follow up on this with Alisdair Tweddle as it has been dragging on for far too long.

13/100 FOOTPATH 18 (HANGERS WAY)

Cllr. MacDonald reported that an e-mail response had eventually been received from Elliott Rowe (Senior Ranger, Rights of Way). He had visited the footpath (although without notifying Cllr. MacDonald) and agrees that it has been badly damaged by the rain and is now a category 2 repair. However, there is currently no money available in the R.O.W. budget and his recommendation is that Steep Parish Council applies for Small Grant Scheme funding for 50% of the costs. A quote for £1,400 to re-establish the drainage has been received meaning that match funding of £700 will be required.

Following discussion it was AGREED that the Recreation Working Party should look at an overall strategy and action plan for the repairs, as a high priority. Cllr. MacDonald will reply to Elliott Rowe.

13/101 ROADS AND TRAFFIC WORKING PARTY REPORT – No report has been received from the Working Party and it is not known what progress has been made.

A P.C. request for another traffic survey in Steep Marsh will be submitted – to take place before 19th July or after 3rd September (school holidays).

Raised manholes on the C18 are causing problems especially for cyclists who are unable to ride over them and have to go round them, causing safety issues – the Chairman will report these via Richard Peach.

13/102 SHIPWRIGHT’S WAY SCULPTURE

Cllr. Martin attended the meeting with Cath Hart to discuss sites for the proposed sculpture. The favoured spot is on the triangle of grass outside Kettlebrook Cottages – written permission is being sought from the landowner’s son. The second choice is on the other side of the road by the “Harrow Lane” sign. Famous author’s names for the art work (depicting 3 books lying on top of each other) were discussed – proposals included John Wyndham, Edward Thomas, Cecil Day Lewis, and Alec Guinness (the Clerk was asked to check whether Cecil Day Lewis had indeed been a Steep resident – if not the other 3 names should be confirmed).

13/103 STEEP COMMON – REQUEST FOR A MARQUEE

A request from Steep School for permission to erect a marquee on Steep Common from 6th – 12th July for the annual end of term Woodfest and concerts was discussed. There was some concern that this could be intrusive for other users and set a precedent. The Clerk was asked to write to the School explaining that the Parish Council was not keen on having the marquee up for a week and asking them to keep it to the shortest time possible.

13/104 MEETINGS ATTENDED

- Ashford Hangers – Cllr. Cook had attended the walk through the Hangers and expressed concern that currently Hampshire County Council has no policy on Ash die back.
- Bedales Community Open Evening – plans for new workshop facilities and renovation of some of the classrooms (at a cost of £5 ½ million) were presented. Councillors felt it would be an appropriate time to reopen discussions about the problems caused by School traffic in Church Road. It was AGREED that the Chairman should approach the Governors and seek to open up a dialogue.
- Community Transport Forum – Cllr. Openshaw attended the meeting but no feedback has been received.

13/105 CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter received from Dr. Brown (circulated prior to the meeting) concerning a planning issue in the Marsh, was discussed and considered alongside the Terms of Reference of the Planning Committee.

Members of the Planning Committee agreed that, in hindsight, the planning application in question should have been referred to the full Parish Council and that lessons had been learnt from this.

Councillor MacDonald will write an article for the Newsletter setting out the Parish Council process for considering applications, making it clear that the public have an opportunity to make representations at the Planning Meetings. If they are unable to attend, they should contact the Clerk.

Following the discussion it was AGREED that no changes were needed to the Terms of Reference of the Planning Committee.

The Clerk was asked to reply to Dr. Brown explaining that his concerns had been looked into.

13/106 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, 2nd September 2013 at 7.30 p.m. at Steep Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.