

DRAFT

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Caroline Robinson

CLERK: Mrs. Jenny Hollington

MINUTES OF THE STEEP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – THURSDAY, 19TH MAY 2011
AT STEEP VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Caroline Robinson (in the Chair)	Terry Cook	Nick Hurst
Jim MacDonald	Graham Banks	Jenny Martin
Simon Bridger	Suzi Openshaw	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Vaughan Clarke (County Councillor)
Nicholas Drew (District Councillor)
Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

12 members of the public were present throughout the meeting

APOLOGIES :

Charles Gibson, Rev. John Owen

APM11/01 **Minutes of the last Meeting** – The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2010 were agreed as an accurate record and signed accordingly.

APM11/02 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking Richard Coles for his tireless work on behalf of the village both as a member of the Parish Council and as Chairman. She pointed out that Richard has served the community for more years than most of us have lived here. As a small gesture of thanks Richard was presented with an old English Medlar tree which it is hoped he and Sue will enjoy!

The Chairman welcomed the new District Councillor, Nicholas Drew, a Froxfield resident who has taken over from Jennifer Gray (who is now District Councillor for Liss). She thanked both Jennifer and Vaughan Clarke (County Councillor) for all the hard work undertaken on behalf of Steep and for their regular attendances at the meetings.

The Chairman said that much had been achieved throughout the year and thanked those that had helped on various projects in the village for their support. In particular thanks went to Ray Street (Village Website), Drake Hocking (Tree Warden for his work on Steep Common), Rosemary Lilley (War Memorial), Tony Struthers (Steep Parish Plan), Robert Venables (Charity Law) and Simon Bridger, Terry Cook and Bedales School (for clearing roads during the snow). She also thanked Jenny Martin (Vice Chair) and the Clerk for their support and those Parish Councillors who have stepped down or not been re-elected for their contribution towards the work of the Parish Council.

On-going issues such as affordable housing, salt bins, the proposed route of the Shipwright's Way, the proposed closure of the level crossing in Sheet, and projects such as the extension to the Village hall and re-siting and refurbishment of the B.T. Phone Box will be taken forward and/or monitored in the next year. Work will also continue to improve the condition and access to the various footpaths and bridleways within the Village.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Assembly and said that she looked forward to the coming year and to welcoming four new Parish Councillors on board!

APM11/03 **District Councillor's Report**

Nick Drew introduced himself and explained that he would be representing four parishes within East Hampshire District Council. He said that he looked forward to working on behalf of the residents of

Steep and encouraged everyone to use and engage him for the good of the community. He said that he looked forward to resolving issues and working alongside the Parish Council.

APM11/04 **County Councillor's Report**

Vaughan Clarke said that he had had an enjoyable year as County Councillor and has been impressed with the amount of dedicated work that has been undertaken by parish representatives to sort out parish problems.

He said that two main items have dominated the work of the County Council this year, namely the reduction in the Government Grant and the state of the roads, especially in the icy weather. Hampshire's cut equates to £30.9 m and is being achieved by cutting out a whole layer of senior management jobs, no replacement of staff who leave, overtime payments, a wage freeze and procurement. About 1200 posts will go. Despite all the cuts the County Council has decided to make no cut to the road repair budget – this should enable more roads to be properly resurfaced. Two thousand new salt bins have also been installed throughout the County and snow shovels have been issued to every Parish Council, seven extra salting lorries have also been purchased.

APM11/05 **Finance Report**

The Clerk gave a brief overview of the year's accounts. She said that as at 31st March 2011 there was £1,369.42 in the current account and £11,221.20 in the H.C.C. (Deposit) account, giving a total sum of £12,590.62.

The main receipts throughout the year included the £6,000 precept, VAT recovery of £486.52 and income from the allotment land of £120. Match funded grants had been received from H.C.C. towards work to the Hangers Way Footpath (£1,400), Footpath 20 (£1,000) and the map board (£586). A County Councillor grant of £1,000 has also been received which will be used towards the re-siting and refurbishment of the B.T. Phone Box and to improve access to the footpath at Hayes Cottages.

The main expenditure had been the Village Survey on Affordable Housing which cost £1,326.00, and the Clerk's training and salary (£5,000). Donations totalling £2,100 had been given during the year to Steep P.C.C. for the Newsletter and Churchyard Maintenance, the Parish Plan and the CAB in Petersfield.

APM11/06 **Public Comment**

- Concern was expressed that some Councillors have served on the Parish Council for over 20 years now and it was felt that the Parish Council should give younger people a chance by encouraging Councillors to stand down after 2 terms. The Chairman said that the comments would be noted.

There being no further public comment the meeting was closed at 7.45 p.m.