



Stroud Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Stroud Parish Council held at Steep Village Hall on Tuesday 1st of July 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr D McKinney, Cllr A Burges & Cllr C Snow, Cllr J Edbrooke.

Also Present: Mrs M Snow (Clerk & RFO) Cllr Drew (arrived at 8.05pm)

1.03.14 Apologies: Cllr F Rogers, County Cllr V Clarke.

2.03.14 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests: None

3.03.14 Comments from the public or press. None in attendance.

4.03.14 Minutes.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27th of May 2014 previously circulated were agreed and signed.

5.03.14 Matters Arising from the above minutes.

- a) The quote for the playground repairs had not yet been received from Mr Mayell.
- b) The Recreation Ground Safety inspection report had now been received. Cllr Snow reported that no major issues had been highlighted an update will be given at the next meeting.

6.03.14. Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 25th of March 2014 previously circulated were agreed and signed.

7.03.14 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 8th of May 2014 previously circulated were agreed and signed.

8.03.14 Clerk's Contract. The Clerk and the Chairman duly signed the updated contract.

9.03.14 Website Committee. It was resolved that the website sub-committee is now dissolved.

10.03.14 Recreation Ground Contractor selection.

Further to the meeting last year when a contractor was selected it was highlighted by the internal auditor that it had not been publicly minuted at a meeting. It was resolved that the contractor Mr Frank Mayell was selected to carry out the work required in the Grounds Maintenance contract tender document. His winning tender was for a grass cut of £55 per mow and the Recreation Ground Hedges per year £450.00. In addition one cut of the millennium hedge at the end of August at the cost of £150.00. The total contract cost is £1377.00 per year. The contract is for three years on satisfactory completion of the first year.

11.03.14 Declaration of Interest Forms

The internal auditor noted that some of the forms were not completed properly and advised that the councillors should review them. The clerk is to hand out the forms held on file for each councillor to check and return to the clerk.

12.03.14 Closure of Sheet Crossing

Damien Hinds MP has requested the views of Stroud Parish Council regarding the possible closure of Sheet railway crossing. It was resolved that a letter would be sent to Mr Hinds explaining that the closure would have a negative effect on the residents of Stroud.

13.03.14 Recreation Ground Gateway Improvements

Cllr Snow had recently asked for the Councillors to consider how the gateway could be improved. It was resolved to ask John Coney of the Hampshire Playing Fields Association for advice concerning disabled access requirements.

14.03.14 WW1 Centenary Bench

Cllr Burges is currently looking into the bench design and the clerk is looking into possible grant funding.

15.03.14 Fracking conference Report

Cllr Burges attended a conference on fracking, which he found very informative. He heard views from those for fracking in the morning and those against after lunch. The documents which accompanied the event has been emailed out to the councillors.

16.03.14 Partnership for paths meeting report 5th of June.

Cllr Snow attended this afternoon event which was a great event but found that the event wasn't long enough to discuss the topics in detail. HCC & SDNPA have teamed up with the Ramblers Association to assist with monitoring of the Rights of Way. Cllr Snow has been provided with an information pack which he is to pass onto Cllr Rogers.

17.03.14 HALC Subscription.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would continue its subscription of HALC for the valuable services it provides. The cost for 2014/15 is £170.00.

18.03.14 Affordable Housing and Sustainable development.

a) To agree the number of possible affordable housing units – CAH Report.

On the 24th of June the Chairman had a meeting with Catherine Kirkham and Mags Wyle of CAH (re-branded Action Hampshire) and Helen Cann Housing officer at EHDC. Ms Kirkham has produced a report (see appendix a) from the recent updated Housing Needs Survey. The updated Housing needs survey indicated that at the time the survey was carried out 4 affordable rent units and 5 Shared ownership housing units required. The Hampshire Home Choice register (Rented) has had a change made to the Banding system and Band 5 has been removed. The shared ownership register has been rebranded from Homes in Hants to Help to buy South but they will still be responsible for the shared ownership housing. Ms Kirkham recommended that the above housing need figures be adopted by the Parish Council should any development go ahead.

Resolved: Following the updated Housing Needs Survey in April 2014, the Parish Council has considered the report and accepts the recommendations made by Action Hampshire. For 4 Affordable rented properties [3x1 bed & 1x2 bed] and 2 Shared ownership properties [1x2 bed & 1x3 bed], should the development in Ramsdean Road go ahead. The Parish Council will review with Action Hampshire every three months.

b) To note the minutes of the AHSD committee meeting held on the 25th of March 2014. The clerk had left these at home. To be discussed at the next AHSD committee meeting.

c) Date of the next AHSD Committee meeting – 15th of July 2014, time and venue to be confirmed.

19.03.14 Report from District Councillor. Cllr Drew reported that he is now a member of the cabinet, due to this Cllr Drew is more involved with grants. Grants are no longer awarded via the community forum meetings. EHDC have objected to the Farnborough expansion plans. Damien Hinds MP is still holding open sessions regarding the possible closure of Sheet Railway crossing. Cllr Drew is always happy to hear from residents.

20.03.14. Report from County Councillor. (See appendix b)

21.03.14 Councillors Reports:

a) Tree Warden - No report

b) Parish Plan – Cllr McKinney is looking to hold the green event in September. Further details to follow.

c) Recreation Ground – The bin is still an issue but the clerk is still trying to resolve it. Cllr Snow empties it as and when required. The recreation ground improvements are continuing.

d) Bus Shelters – Brambles have been cut back from the bus shelters no other major issues to report.

e) Footpaths – See report.

22.03.14 Chairman's Report

The village Hall focus group have agreed on a hall size of 203sq m for the new village hall. To be discussed further at the next AHSD Committee Meeting.

23.03.14 Financial Matters

a) Financial Report:

Balance in accounts: Unity Trust Current account £7297.46
Unity Trust Savings account £6454.69

Money In: None

Money Out: 30/05/2014 300059 Mr Frank Mayell May Cut £111.00

01/07/2014 300060 Mr Frank Mayell June Cut £111.00

01/07/2014 300061 Steep PCC Churchyard Grant £125.00

01/07/2014 300062 Mrs M Snow (Laptop purchase) £524.00

Total £871.00

The following electronic payments were authorised and cheques signed:

b) **Adoption of the Financial Risk Assessments**

Following the internal audit a financial risk assessment has been produced. It was resolved that the Financial risk assessment be adopted (see appendix c).

c) **Internal Audit report.**

The audit report was carried out by Eleanor Greene of Do the Numbers Ltd she produced a report which listed a few minor issues. The clerk has now produced an action plan in response to the issues raised. (See appendix d)

24.03.14 Correspondence

a) **HALC Information Booklet.** These were given out to the Councillors.

b) **CIL Consultation.** This applies to the EHDC area only nothing received from SDNP.

c) **Local Government Pension Scheme** - not applicable to the clerk.

d) **EHAPTC Accounts & SDNP Report.** - Emailed out to all Councillors

e) **SDNPA Office relocation & open day.** – Email out and noted.

f) **HALC marketing and social media.** – Social media company Services not required.

g) **Xelabus Bus Service.** New bus service along the A272, hard copies of the new timetable are available from the clerk.

25.03.14 Future Agenda Items.

Date of the next meeting will be Tuesday the 2nd of September 2014 at 7.30pm in Steep Village Hall.

Extraordinary meeting to be held on Tuesday the 8th of July venue to be confirmed at 730pm.

Meeting Ended: 9.45pm

Signed Chairman:

Date:_____

Clerk – M Snow