



Stroud Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Stroud Parish Council held at Steep Village Hall on Tuesday 4th of November 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr D McKinney, Cllr A Burges, Cllr C Snow, Cllr F Rogers & Cllr D Paul.

Also Present: Mrs M Snow (Clerk & RFO) District Cllr N Drew & County Cllr V Clarke & 11 members of the public.

The Chairman announced that due to public attendance agenda item 6. would be brought forward and discussed after agenda item 3.

1.06.14 Apologies: Cllr J Edbrooke.

2.06.14 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests: None

3.06.14 Comments from the public or press. A statement was given by Mrs Angharad Snow regarding safety concerns crossing the A272/Winchester Road is attached (appendix a).

6.06.14. Highways.

Cllr Burges explained that Highway issues are the responsibility of the County Council, however the Parish Council have been proactively addressing the issue of speeding traffic along the A272. Cllr Burges explained that he has met with Mr Ian James - Head of Traffic Management at Hampshire County Council and walked around the village. They discussed some options with the latest being the removal of road markings. Cllr Burges is also in contact with Langrish Parish Council who are to install some Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) shortly. County Cllr Clarke added that Ian James is the best person to be in contact with regarding traffic management. Cllr Snow added that he had been informed that the street lamps were added to the telegraph poles at the request of the community and hence no repeater signs through the village due to street lamps being in place. **It was resolved** that the Parish Council would formally write to Hampshire County Council with their concerns. **It was resolved** to contact Hampshire Police and ask them to conduct their speed checks at the school drop off and pick up times.

It was resolved to continue discussions with Mr James of Hampshire County Council Highways department. **It was resolved** to write to Langrish Primary School and the local education authority to express the Parish Council's concerns regarding the road and children travelling to school. **It was resolved** to write to Hall & Woodhouse to ask if a small path could be made through the millennium hedge into the Seven Stars car park. Cllr Drew and Cllr Clarke offered grants towards such a project. 11 members of the public left the meeting.

4.06.14 To receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd of September 2014.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd of September 2014 previously circulated were agreed and signed.

5.06.14 Recruitment of new clerk.

a) Hand over procedure. Three candidates have been interviewed on Monday the 3rd of November and the last candidate is to be interviewed on Monday the 10th of November. **It was resolved** that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (who are conducting the interviews)

can make the decision as to who is to be employed once the last candidate has been interviewed. A hand over period of 22 hours (2 weeks) with full pay was agreed. Mrs Snow will then work as and when until the end of January to provide the draft budget and conclude all the issues currently being dealt with by her.

b) Purchase of clerk manual. It was resolved to purchase a clerks manual at the cost of £47.50 plus postage and packing.

7.06.14 Grant Awards.

a) Victim Support After discussion **it was resolved** that £50.00 would be granted to Victim Support. Proposed by Cllr Snow and seconded by Cllr Rogers. (s137 LGA 1972)

b) Steep PCC - Newsletter After discussion and the suspension of point 17 of the grant awarding policy **it was resolved** that £200.00 would be granted to Steep PCC towards the production of the Steep & Stroud Parish Magazine. (s137 LGA 1972)

8.06.14 Noticeboard. It was resolved to accept the quote of £585.00 for the production of a new noticeboard which is to be provided by Mr Keith Heat of Froxfield.

9.06.14 Affordable Housing and Sustainable development Update.

The Parish Council had received correspondence from Mr & Mrs Atkinson explaining that they wish to withdraw their land for consideration of an affordable housing and open market development. Due to the low percentage of open market housing that current SDNPA policy dictates on a rural exception site. However Mr & Mrs Atkinson will reconsider their options after the elections in May 2015. The Chairman has had many discussions with Gareth Giles of SDNPA but they will not move on policy even with the amount of community support that Stroud has. **It was resolved** to contact Mr Derek Cox the owner of the other site which would be considered by SDNPA for development which is located east of the Seven Stars public house. **It was resolved** to hold an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Development committee meeting and to invite all the members of the focus groups to update them. The Parish Council will then consider dissolving the Affordable Housing & Sustainable Committee.

10.06.14 Consideration and adoption of complaints procedure. Deferred until the next meeting.

11.06.14 Report from District Councillor – Cllr Drew reported on the following points:

- South Downs National Park Authority are currently reviewing the Strategic Housing Land Availability Report (Shlar) sites in the area.
- The Community Forum is on the 12th of November 2014. All were invited to attend.
- Best Wishes to County Councillor Vaughan Clarke for a swift recovery after recently being unwell.
- Cllr Drew reminded the Parish Council that he has a grant fund and application forms are available from the EHDC website.
- Network Rail are shortly going to hold a drop in session regarding the closure of the Sheet level crossing.

12.06.14 Report from County Councillor – (See appendix b.)

13.06.14 Recreation Ground Equipment Check.

Cllr Snow gave the following report: The gateway has become muddy so some stones were put down. Soil and grass seed have been put down and sprinkled on the bank. The chestnut fencing has become rotten along the east side of the recreation ground. Grass is growing over the rubber matting on the swings. The goal posts need to be moved as the grass has become very worn in the goal mouth. Cllr Rogers had collected some quotes for grass matting for 1.15m rectangle and 23mm thick and fixed with pegs and ties. Cllr Drew has offered £200 towards a grant for the grass matting to go in the goal mouth. The clerk expressed the view that a project budget would be required to establish full project costs and is required for any grant applications.

14.06.14 Biffa Bin Contract – The clerk reported that finally the rubbish bin on the recreation ground will now be emptied by Biffa as the Parish Council has no other choice

after English Landscapes stopped emptying the bin. The cost per week is £4.00 as each lift is £8.00 and it is emptied twice a month which is non-negotiable. Together with the weekly admin fee of £4.00. Yearly Admin Fee £80.60 Collect Fee £208.00. Total £288.60

15.06.14 Bench Plaques - The clerk has had made the replacement plaque to celebrate the Queens Silver jubilee after the original was lost. A plaque for the Oak bench by the Thumper Tower which is in celebration of local residents Mr & Mrs Winscom. Also a new plaque to commemorate those who lost their lives in WW1 which will be installed on the new bench when it arrives.

The clerk was refunded the cost of £75.00 for all three plaques.

16.06.14 Cycle Way

Cllr Rogers gave an update on the proposed cycle way, she explained that Mr David Dean from SDNPA had suggested that existing footpaths would be a cheaper option for providing a cycle way. After discussion it was suggested that a letter from the Parish Council on behalf of the residents would hold more weight when contacting the landowner. Cllr Rogers is to discuss this with Helen Bradbury who is leading the community group.

17.06.14 Planning application - SDNP/14/04988/LIS **Location:** Red House, Winchester Road, Stroud, GU32 3PD **Proposal:** Rebuilding of Chimney.

It was resolved that no objection would be made to the planning application.

18.06.14 SDNPA Liason Meeting – It was resolved that Cllr Burges and Cllr Rogers would attend the SDNPA Liason Meeting which is to be held on Wednesday the 12th of November at Meonstoke Village Hall.

19.06.14 Bus Service – It appears that Excelabus are no longer providing the service between West Meon and Petersfield. Stagecoach are back running the service again.

20.06.14 Chairman's Report – Cllr Burges has checked the bus shelters and provided a report to the councillors.

21.05.14 Financial Matters

a) Financial Report:

Balance in accounts: Unity Trust Current account £8097.07

Unity Trust Savings account £6456.32

Money In: 24/09/2014 EHDC Half year precept £5861.50

30/09/2014 Bank Interest £1.39

07/10/2014 Walks Around Stroud Booklets £10.00 Total £5872.89

Money Out:

06/10/2014 300065 Steep Pcc Hall Hire £20.00

06/10/2014 300066 Mr F Mayell £111.00

05/09/2014 BACS Mythic Beasts Ltd £30.00

26/09/2014 Direct Debit Information Commissioner £35.00

01/10/2014 Standing Order Clerks October Wages £411.25

13/10/2014 Jonathan Street £90.00

13/10/2014 BDO LLP £120.00

13/10/2014 Meon Cleaning Services Mr CP Jenner £66.00

13/10/2014 SLCC £101.00

01/11/2014 Standing Order Clerks November Wages £411.25

Total Payments: £1395.50

The following electronic payments were authorised and cheques signed:

04/11/2014 300067 Mrs M Snow £75.00

04/11/2014 300068 Mr F Mayell £111.00

04/11/2014 300069 Mr K Heat Noticeboard £585.00

04/11/2014 300070 Steep PCC £200.00

04/11/2014 300071 Victim Support £50.00 Total Payments authorised £1021.00

b) Audit Report – The Parish Council have now received the report from the external auditor and had the accounts signed off as completed. The notice has been

displayed on the noticeboard. The report was passed round the councillors and it was noted that only minor issues were raised in the report.

- c) EHDC Tax Base – The current funding is to remain this year but EHDC have said that the grant maybe stopped in future years.

15.05.14 Correspondence

- a) **HALC Letter – Recruitment of new Parish Councillors** It was resolved to ask **Tim Pullen - Stroud village website if they would be willing to advertise for councillors nearer the election.**
- b) **Steep Village Hall – New hire charges were reported to the Council.**
- c) **Street Traders Consultation and response.** The clerk responded to the consultation after discussing with the councillors. No comment was submitted as Street Trading does not affect Stroud.
- d) **HCC Rights of Way Consultation –** Cllr Rogers responded to the stakeholder consultation on behalf of the Parish Council. Links to the Public survey were sent to the Parish Council's and village websites.
- e) **The Openness and Transparency Act 2008.** This legislation now enables people to record Parish Council meetings if they wish for playback after the meeting has finished.

16.05.14 Future Agenda Items. – Budget and Clerks training

Date of the next meeting will be Tuesday the 20th of January 2014 at 7.00pm in Steep Village Hall.

Meeting Ended: 9.55pm

Signed

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk – M Snow