



# Stroud Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Stroud Parish Council held at Langrish School Hall on Tuesday 7th of July 2015

**Present:** Cllr D McKinney, Cllr A Burges, Cllr O Howe & Cllr C Foulston.

**Also Present:** Mrs E Foulston (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr N Drew & no members of the public.

**1.04.15 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were noted from Cllr D Paul, Cllr O Rogers and County Cllr V Clarke.

**2.04.15 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**  
Cllr Howe declared an interest in agenda item 18.04.15.

**3.04.15 Comments from the Public or Press.**  
No members of the public or press were present.

**4.04.15 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.**  
Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 previously circulated were agreed and signed.

**5.04.15. To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2015.**  
Approval of these minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

**6.04.15 Hampshire County Council Draft Cycle Strategy.**  
The Chairman read out comments previously submitted by Cllr Rogers and it was discussed that 200 people had signed a petition regarding a cycle route. A footbridge over the A3 to link Stroud and Petersfield and a zebra crossing within the village was also discussed. **It was resolved** to respond to the consultation in line with Cllr Rogers' comments and also to put the link to the consultation on the website to encourage local residents to reply.

**7.04.15 EHAPTC meeting update**  
The Chairman and the Vice Chairman attended an EHAPTC meeting and AGM in Ropley on 10<sup>th</sup> June. There were various items on the agenda including the Parish Charter and planning. EHAPTC are also looking for representatives to 2 other bodies.

**8.04.15 Date of the Annual Parish Meeting**  
As the date suggested for the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting falls within school Easter holidays next year another date for the Annual Parish Meeting was discussed. **It was resolved** that the new suggested date would be 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**9.04.15 The Lengthsman Scheme**  
The Chairman explained the background to this scheme and that Steep Parish Council had raised this with the Parish Council. After discussion **it was resolved** that although this could be of interest in principle, further information and costs would be requested from Steep Parish Council.

#### **10.04.15 Parish Tree Warden and other Parish Councillor Roles**

A local resident who knows the area well has asked whether she can take on the Parish Tree Warden role. **It was resolved** that the local resident would take on this role (reporting to Cllr Foulston) subject to training for insurance purposes. Cllr Drew has confirmed that training will be available for Cllr Foulston and the local resident. The Chairman noted it was encouraging to have the support from the local community for this role. **It was resolved** that Cllr Howe would also take on the Community Forum role for the Parish Council.

#### **11.04.15 Recreation Ground – Annual Inspection Report**

Cllr Foulston confirmed that the annual inspection had taken place and discussion followed regarding the points that had been raised. Several of the points raised have already been addressed and of the remaining points **it was resolved** to get a quote for a treatment on the recently fixed bench, replacing the broken slabs under this bench and fixing the new WW1 Commemorative bench to its base. Cllr Drew offered a grant for fixing the new bench. The Clerk will contact the Grounds Maintenance contractor to see when the hedges are due to be trimmed and has also been obtaining quotes, along with Cllr Rogers, for new matting at the goal mouth. Cllr Burges is looking into broken wood on the bench in the corner of the recreation ground. Further clarification regarding the willow tunnel will be requested from the Inspector and the Council is also looking into whether Environmental Health can help with the molehills. Replacement parts for the swings and the Thumper Tower will be sourced and an afternoon will be booked in for the Councillors to work on the recreation ground. The Clerk has also recently contacted the company who provided the Thumper Tower for suggestions on some of the points raised in the inspection report. Cllr Foulston finished by adding that the Seven Stars have kindly donated a picnic bench to the recreation ground which will be moved there once it has been fixed up.

#### **12.04.15 Bus Shelters Update**

Cllr Burges has checked the bus shelters and the 2 metal bus shelters need repainting. **It was resolved** to ask Cllr Clarke whether there are standard colours for bus shelters in the area and also to look into whether there are grants available for paint and paintbrushes. Following this, **it was resolved** to advertise on the website for volunteers to fix and paint the bus shelters.

#### **13.04.15 Renewal of the Website Domain and Hosting**

After discussion, **it was resolved** to accept the quotation of approximately £170 for the renewal of the website domain and hosting.

#### **14.04.15 Protocol for Public and Press Reporting at Council Meetings**

The new protocol that has been included in the Standing Orders was discussed in relation to the additional protocol notes and wording to be put out at every meeting moving forward. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would circulate the wording and if there were no amendments or comments before the next meeting then it would be adopted at that meeting.

#### **15.04.15 Clerk's Holiday Dates**

**It was resolved** that the Clerk will take annual leave for the weeks commencing 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Clerk will email the Councillors to remind them of the dates nearer the time.

#### **16.04.15 Uncontested Election Costs**

The costs from EHDC for the recent uncontested Election were discussed and Cllr Drew will be requesting a breakdown of these and why they were charged.

#### **17.04.15 Clerk's SLCC Membership Renewal**

After discussion **it was resolved** that the Parish Council would pay for the Clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for the coming year.

#### **18.04.15 Recent Construction within the Village**

Cllr Howe explained that there has recently been construction within the village which is a mobile structure but from looking at the size and weight of the construction it suggests that the structure would be impractical to be removed. It is outside of the settlement boundary. **It was resolved** that the Clerk would forward the details to Cllr Drew who will raise this as a query with Compliance.

#### **19.04.15 Proposed Development in Ramsdean Road**

Following the last Parish Council meeting, the landowners were asked to submit a formal plan regarding the proposed development to the Council and a letter and draft plan were subsequently submitted. Lengthy discussion followed, including comments submitted by Cllr Paul and Cllr Rogers outside of the meeting, regarding the letter and draft plan which did not contain enough information for the Parish Council to take any decisions. **It was resolved** that the Clerk and Chairman would draft a letter to be sent to the landowners requesting detailed architectural plans, intentions and information regarding community assets. Once the detailed plans are received the Parish Council will review them and take expert advice on Community Right to Build Orders before formally making a decision. The Parish Council reiterated that significant community engagement must take place during this process.

#### **20.04.15 Report from District Councillor**

Cllr Drew reported on the following points: -

- East Hants District Council is currently investing in growth and in particular in buying properties for business use.
- There are 3 new grants available – Rural Leaders Grants, New Business Grants and the EHDC Apprenticeship Scheme. The Clerk is going to post details of these on the website.
- Anyone who is having issues finding details of planning applications should be reminded that it is SDNPA that deals with local planning and not EHDC.
- Local residents in Stroud have mentioned requests for a zebra crossing over the A272
- 60% of Sheet residents recently voted to keep the Sheet railway crossing open but this issue is still ongoing.
- There was a vote last week on combined authorities and EHDC have only voted to go to the next step of reviewing the benefits and there will be no impact in the short term.

#### **21.04.15 Report from County Councillor**

The Chairman read out a report from County Councillor Vaughan Clarke (see appendix attached).

#### **22.04.15 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman and the Clerk have been contacted by a local resident who has requested whether the stile from the main road onto the village green can be replaced by a kissing gate. The Clerk is currently in discussions with the landowner to find out whether this will be permitted and the Chairman has contacted another landowner who has recently purchased kissing gates to discuss the process. The Chairman and the Clerk are also going to be contacting various local committees to establish a working party to work alongside the Parish Council to arrange next year's Annual Parish Meeting.

#### **23.04.15 Financial Matters**

### **a) Finance Report**

Balance in accounts: Unity Trust Current account £5,175.56

Unity Trust Deposit account £6,461.15

Money in:

29/05/2015 Mrs M Snow £112.60

30/06/2015 Bank interest £1.57

30/06/2015 Bank interest £1.61

Total £115.78

Money out:

31/05/2015 300098 Steep PCC £100.00

02/06/2015 300099 Frank Mayell £111.00

04/06/2015 300100 Hampshire County Council £60.00

23/06/2015 Direct Debit Biffa £91.42

28/05/2015 BACS Getmapping plc £33.60

01/06/2015 BACS HMRC £81.40

01/06/2015 BACS Mrs E Foulston £383.66

02/06/2015 BACS HALC Ltd £10.00

02/06/2015 BACS Zurich Insurance £282.01

08/06/2015 BACS Mr CP Jenner (MCS) £66.00

08/06/2015 BACS EHDC £119.70

08/06/2015 BACS Mrs E Foulston £150.00

24/06/2015 BACS NW Adams £54.60

24/06/2015 BACS Do The Numbers Ltd £185.00

30/06/2015 BACS HMRC £81.40

30/06/2015 BACS Mrs E Foulston £386.19

06/07/2015 BACS HALC Ltd £108.00

Total payments £2,303.98

The following cheques were signed:

10/06/2015 300101 Steep PCC £10.00

02/07/2015 300102 Frank Mayell £179.00

Total payments authorised £2,492.98

The Chairman signed the bank statements for the period.

### **b) Internal Audit Report**

The Clerk confirmed that the Internal Audit had been completed and signed off with only 4 recommendations for the coming financial year. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work on the successful audit.

### **24.04.15 Correspondence**

#### **a) Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review**

It was discussed that this should have little impact on the village and **it was resolved** not to reply to the consultation at this time.

#### **b) HALC – Consultation on Future Affiliation to NALC**

This was noted.

#### **c) HALC – Digital Transparency Fund**

This was noted and it was discussed that the parish council website was already on track for the new transparency rules. The Clerk is also very aware of the new rules following recent training.

#### **d) HALC - South Downs National Park Authority Parish Member Elections**

This was noted.

### **25.04.15 Future Agenda Items**

None.

**Date of the next meeting** will be Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 at 7.30pm in Langrish School Hall.

Meeting Ended: 9.20pm

Signed  
Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk – E Foulston