



Stroud Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Stroud Parish Council held at Langrish School Hall on Tuesday 19th of January 2016

Present: Cllr D McKinney, Cllr A Burges, Cllr F Rogers, Cllr D Paul, Cllr O Howe & Cllr C Foulston.

Also Present: Mrs E Foulston (Clerk & RFO), County Cllr V Clarke and District Cllr N Drew

1.09.15 Apologies for Absence. None.

2.09.15 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
None.

3.09.15 Comments from the Public or Press.
None.

4.09.15 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on the 27th of October 2015.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27th of October 2015 previously circulated were agreed and signed.

5.09.15. To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting on the 3rd of November 2015.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd of November 2015 previously circulated were agreed and signed.

6.09.15 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on the 10th of December 2015

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th of December 2015 previously circulated were agreed and signed.

7.09.15 To Approve the Budget 2016-17

After discussion **it was resolved** that the budget of £12,733.16 would be adopted for the year 2016-17. This was a decrease of 0.49% on the previous year. The details of the budget are as follows: -

General administration - £8,260.16

Maintenance costs - £2,710.00

S.137 payments and other grants - £400.00

Subscriptions - £363.00

Other costs - £1,000.00

Total expenditure - £12,733.16

8.09.15 To Set the Precept 2016-17

After discussing the budget **it was resolved** to set the precept at £12,733.16 for the year 2016-17 with the sum of £6,366.58 being received in April and October.

9.09.15 To Approve the Publication Scheme

After discussion **it was resolved** to approve the Publication Scheme previously circulated and to add the details to the website.

10.09.15 To Approve the Changes to the Grant Application Form

Following discussion, Cllr Rogers suggested a few changes to be made to the form and **it was resolved** that the Clerk would make these changes and then the form would be discussed again at the next meeting.

11.09.15 To Discuss the Replacement of the Village Marquee

Cllr McKinney has recently held discussions with SARA and the Village Hall Trustees regarding the equipment that is needed to replace the current marquee. There will be a meeting on 20th January to confirm the final list with a view to purchasing these items as soon as funding is approved. The equipment will be formally handed over to the Village Hall Trustees when purchased and will potentially be stored on a local farm. **It was resolved** that a capital funding bid would be sought for this equipment but that also other sources of funding would be researched.

12.09.15 Report from the Sub-Committee for the Highways/Road Safety Issue

Cllr Burges reported that the sub-committee have met twice now and have put together a list of requests and a list of people to speak to. They are also still in communication with Ian Janes at Hampshire County Council's Highways department. Cllr Burges asked whether Cllr Clarke could also speak to Mr Janes on the sub-committee's behalf. The head teacher of Langrish School has also attended a meeting and the school has been involved with drawing up the list of requests and prioritising these.

13.09.15 To Discuss the Grounds Maintenance Contract

The current Grounds Maintenance Contract is due to end in 2016 and **it was resolved** to begin the tender process for a new contract. The current contractor would be contacted and the information put on the Parish Council website. It was suggested that the Seven Stars is contacted to check which contractors they currently use. The Parish Council is also currently still waiting on confirmation of their application to join the Lengthsman Scheme.

14.09.15 To Discuss a Replacement Gate for the Village Green

After discussion **it was resolved** that final costs would be confirmed for the pedestrian, galvanised kissing gate with mesh hoops and also for fitting this gate. Grant applications would then be submitted for this.

15.09.15 Community Forum Update

Cllr Howe provided an update from a recent Community Forum meeting. The meeting initially focussed on EHDC's long term plans including removing reliance on Government grants by 2019/20, reducing council tax, building two new leisure centres and supporting business growth. There was also a discussion regarding cost pressures in 2016/17. The second part of the meeting was a discussion regarding apprenticeships and the different levels of apprenticeships and funding available.

16.09.15 Clerk's Training Update

The Clerk has now completed the Introduction to Local Council Administration qualification and is currently working on interim papers to be completed before moving on to the CiLCA qualification. The Clerk's annual Performance Development Review has also recently been completed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Chairman passed the Council's thanks on to the Clerk for her work over the last year.

17.09.15 Planning Application – SDNP/15/06381/HOUS **Location:** 5 Finchmead Lane, Stroud, Petersfield GU32 3PF **Proposal:** Two pitched roof dormer windows to front
After discussion **it was resolved** that Cllr Burges would do a final review of the application and if no issues were found then there would be no objection to this application.

18.09.15 To Discuss Grant Awards – Churchyard Maintenance

The Parish Council has recently taken legal advice regarding grant awards and has requested a completed grant application form for the churchyard maintenance grant. **It was resolved** to also write to the Vicar of Steep Church and the Church Wardens confirming the process for grant awards.

19.09.15 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Drew reported that he had recently agreed a grant request for the Steep & Stroud Newsletter. Cllr Drew also thanked Cllr Howe for attending the Community Forum as the only attendee from the ward.

20.09.15 Report from County Councillor

See attached appendix.

21.09.15 Chairman's Report

No report.

22.09.15 Financial Matters

a) Finance Report

Balance in accounts: Unity Trust Current account £7,612.57
Unity Trust Deposit account £6,464.41

Money in:

27/11/2015 EHDC £497.00

31/12/2015 Bank interest £2.38

31/12/2015 Bank interest £1.63

Total £501.01

Money out:

06/11/2015 300152 Frank Mayell £111.00

11/11/2015 300105 Frank Mayell £111.00

30/12/2015 300155 Mrs M Snow £411.25

05/01/2016 300154 Steep PCC £10.00

05/01/2016 300156 Frank Mayell £80.00

05/01/2016 300157 Frank Mayell £202.50

21/12/2015 Direct Debit Biffa Waste Services £93.29

04/12/2015 BACS Mr C P Jenner £66.00

30/11/2015 BACS HMRC £81.40

30/11/2015 BACS Mrs E Foulston £332.15

04/12/2015 BACS Mrs E Foulston £150.00

21/12/2015 BACS Wicksteed Leisure £256.81

31/12/2015 BACS HMRC £81.40

31/12/2015 BACS Mrs E Foulston £345.67

08/01/2016 BACS Steep PCC £15.00

15/01/2016 BACS Mr C P Jenner £66.00

Total payments authorised £2,413.47

The Chairman signed the bank statements for the period.

b) Half yearly accounts sign off

Cllr Burges had reviewed and signed off the half yearly accounts outside of the meeting.

c) Internal Auditor

After discussion **it was resolved** to ask Eleanor Greene to complete the internal audit for 2015/16.

23.09.15 Correspondence

a) HALC – Affiliation Fees

This was noted and **it was resolved** that the Clerk would request further information regarding the 20% increase in NALC fees.

b) HALC – Sector Led Body for External Audit

Following discussion **it was resolved** that the Parish Council will be automatically opted in to the new body.

c) HALC – Government’s Spending Review

This was noted and **it was resolved** that the update would be circulated to all Councillors.

d) Hampshire Constabulary – Police & Crime Commissioner Precept Survey

This was noted and **it was resolved** that the link to the survey would be circulated to all Councillors.

e) EHDC – Leader funding information events

Cllr Drew had sent an update to the Parish Council regarding upcoming funding events. Cllr Howe had recently attended one of these events and gave an update on the funding available and the application process.

24.09.15 Future Agenda Items

Village litterpick, Update on Tree Warden training, Annual Parish Meeting and Recreation Ground improvements.

Date of the next meeting will be Tuesday the 1st of March 2016 at 7.30pm in Langrish School Hall.

Meeting Ended: 8.50pm

Signed

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk – E Foulston