



Stroud Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Stroud Parish Council held at Steep Village Hall on Tuesday 20th of January 2015 at 7pm.

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

Also Present: Mrs E Foulston (Clerk & RFO), Mrs M Snow, & County Cllr V Clarke (arrived at 7.30pm) & 6 members of the public.

1.08.14 Apologies: District Cllr N Drew. Cllr D Paul did not attend.

2.08.14 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests: None

3.08.14 Comments from the public or press. Mrs A Snow presented an update to her statement from the meeting of 4th November 2014 and confirmed that along with Cllr Burges she would be meeting with Mr Janes of Hampshire County Council Highways department on Thursday 22nd January 2014 to discuss the issue of speeding traffic along the A272 and a potential lollipop person for school start and finish times. Cllr McKinney confirmed that the management of the Seven Stars are in discussion with their legal team regarding the potential small path through the millennium hedge and it is looking hopeful but they will not be able to fund the changes. They have also suggested that the path should be at the top end of the car park and Mrs A Snow agreed to have a look into that suggestion. Cllr Rogers confirmed that this would be a permissive path instead of becoming a Right of Way. Cllr McKinney has met with District Cllr Drew to discuss funding for the path and year on year maintenance. Cllr Drew has also emailed County Cllr Clarke to give his support. Cllr McKinney queried whether anyone in the village would be interested in taking on the role of lollipop person.

4.08.14 To receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of November 2014.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th of November 2014 previously circulated were agreed, subject to the change in spelling of two surnames contained within the minutes, and signed.

5.08.14. Highways.

Cllr Burges confirmed that most of this item had been covered in item 3 above but that he would continue to talk to the headteacher of Langrish school regarding the speeding issue. The school travel plan is being reviewed and the council's views have been noted. **It was resolved** to put information regarding the lollipop person role on the village website. **It was resolved** that the Parish Council would formally write to Hampshire County Council to request an update on the speeding issue. Cllr McKinney thanked the residents for all of their support which is making a difference. 4 members of the public left the meeting.

6.08.14 Signing of new Clerk's contract

The contract was agreed and signed by the Chairman and Mrs Foulston

7.08.14 Signing of the Grounds Maintenance Contract

Cllr McKinney confirmed that Mr Mayell had a query regarding the timing of the contract and it was confirmed that the contract was a 3 year contract ending in 2016. Mr Mayell also queried that the contract stated 12 monthly payments instead of the 7 payments per year previously agreed. The contract was amended to take account of this agreement and was duly signed by the Chairman and Mr Mayell. Cllr Snow thanked Mr Mayell for the upkeep of the recreation ground. 2 members of the public left the meeting.

8.08.14 Budget 2015-16 After a lengthy discussion **it was resolved** that the attached budget of £12,795.36 would be adopted for the year 2015-16. This was an increase of 9.4% on 2014-15 but it was noted that there are costs such as mileage, election costs and hire of hall that would be reviewed and possibly reduced in subsequent years. During the discussion Cllr Burges confirmed that he was in discussion with Langrish School regarding the Parish Council using the school hall for future meetings free of charge. **It was resolved** that the school hall would be used for Council meetings from May onwards.

9.08.14 Setting the Precept 2015-16

After discussing the budget **it was resolved** to set the precept at £12,795.36 for the year 2015-16 with the sum of £6,397.68 being received in April and October.

10.08.14 Playground Inspection Contractor. Cllr Snow confirmed that the Council had received a detailed report from the Playground Inspection Contractor, Nick Adams of Engineering Design Services. The clerk stated that the costs for this year's inspection would remain the same as last year's. **It was resolved** to retain the services of Nick Adams for the coming year.

11.08.14 Clerk's Training Courses. Cllr McKinney confirmed that the Clerk would like to attend the following training courses: -

- What You Need To Know
- Minute Taking
- Clerk's Update
- Local Council Finance for Clerks

It was resolved that the Clerk would attend all of the above courses.

12.08.14 Annual Parish Meeting. It was discussed that although the annual meeting was for the whole parish, the Parish Council puts the meeting together. Cllr McKinney suggested that as a new cycle path was currently being considered it would be useful to have a talk from a cycle association or similar organisation. There is due to be a letter sent to a local landowner regarding a potential cycle path. After discussion **it was resolved** to contact cycle organisations and also SDNPA. Cllr Snow also suggested an update on the traffic situation and **it was resolved** that the Chairman would talk to Mrs A Snow regarding who would present the update. **It was resolved** that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting would be Tuesday 31st March at 7pm and it would be held in Langrish School Hall.

13.08.14 Consideration and Adoption of Complaints Procedure. The procedure which was circulated in advance of the meeting was discussed and, subject to a few punctuation and grammar corrections suggested by Cllr Rogers, **it was resolved** to adopt the suggested Complaints Procedure.

14.08.14 SDNPA Liaison Meeting Report. Cllr Rogers confirmed that she attended the meeting in Meonstoke on 12th November along with Cllr Burges. There was an introduction from the Director of Planning regarding 'working together' which was then followed by an update on an online consultation system. The 'Dark Skies' project was discussed and it was confirmed that any new developments would have to take account of this. SDNPA asked councils to write letters of support for this project. There were also further updates on the SDNPA local plan and neighbourhood plans, downstream impacts of development and also

a SHLAA update. As part of the local and neighbourhood plans discussion, S.106 was also discussed and **it was resolved** that the Clerk would contact EHDC to find out what S.106 funds were still available and the deadline for using these.

15.08.14 Noticeboard update. The Clerk confirmed that the new noticeboard was now complete and in place. **It was resolved** that when the weather improved, Cllr Burges and the Clerk would look at possibly using the old noticeboard in the recreation ground.

16.08.14 WW1 Commemorative Bench. The new bench is now complete but there would be an additional charge for delivery. **It was resolved** that Cllr McKinney and Cllr Rogers would arrange to collect the new bench themselves to save on delivery charges. The site of the new bench also needs to be prepared as soon as possible. **It was resolved** that Cllr Burges would obtain a quote for removing the base of the old bench and also for installation of the new bench.

17.08.14 Membership of Hampshire Playing Fields Association. It was discussed that membership of this association would be useful in respect of the recreation ground. **It was resolved** that the Council would join this association and pay the annual membership subscription from 1st April 2015.

18.08.14 Report from District Councillor – Cllr McKinney read out a report on Cllr Drew's behalf on the following points:

- Cllr Drew is currently unable to represent Stroud with the SHLAA sites being proposed in the district as SDNPA own the process and have not shared it. Cllr Drew recommends that the Council asks to review data on sites proposed for Stroud.
- Petersfield first athletic club are looking for volunteers – free coaching courses will be provided for anyone who wishes to do this.
- Cllr Drew still has a little grant funding available and he also understands that there are still significant s106 funds available – Cllr Drew welcomes any proposals.
- EHDC has frozen council tax charges again this year and continued support for full Parish grant as normal.
- EHDC is looking to offer business office space in Penns Place – contact Cllr Drew for information

19.08.14 Report from County Councillor – (See appendix a.) As part of his report Cllr Clarke discussed the superfast broadband project and it was confirmed that this is now available in Stroud.

20.08.14 Councillor's Reports –

a) Tree Warden – Cllr Edbrooke confirmed there was nothing to report.

b) Parish Plan – Cllr McKinney reported that he would be speaking to SDNPA or the District Council to see if we can add appendices to projects over the course of 2015. It was also discussed whether old files could be scanned instead of having to hold paper copies.

c) Communications – no report.

d) Recreation Ground – Cllr Snow confirmed that there was woodchip needed in the recreation ground and he had obtained a quote for this. The cost was £185 for delivery only and £260 to include the spreading of the woodchip too. **It was resolved** that the Council would purchase the woodchip with delivery only and would arrange for a volunteer working party to spread this in early April. This could be mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Snow will store the woodchip in the meantime. Mrs Snow confirmed that Mr Mayell was due to replace the paving slabs under 2 of the benches and **it was resolved** that the Clerk would contact Mr Mayell to discuss this.

e) Bus Shelters – Cllr Burges confirmed that he had inspected the bus shelters as normal. It was discussed that the Council could look at getting a quote for 2 of the bus shelters to be painted when the weather improves and also look at repairs or possible replacement for the wooden bus shelter at that time.

f) Footpaths – Cllr Rogers said that footpath 706 was very waterlogged at the stiles and it was confirmed that the landowners were working towards trying to rectify this including installing new kissing gates instead of stiles.

21.08.14 Chairman's Report – The Council had received a request to complete an LCR Opinion survey regarding precept referendums and the Clerk and the Chairman will be drafting a reply and responding to this. The recently published SHLAA information was also presented to the Council and discussed.

22.08.14 Financial Matters

a) Financial Report:

Balance in accounts: Unity Trust Current account £4,628.18
Unity Trust Savings account £6,457.95

Money In: 31/12/2014 Bank Interest £1.63
31/12/2014 Bank Interest £1.98
25/11/2014 Hampshire County Council £300.00 Total £303.61

Money Out:

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
08/01/2015 300072 Mrs M Snow £500.00
08/01/2015 300073 Mrs E Foulston £150.00
08/01/2015 300074 Mrs E Foulston £255.64
08/01/2015 300075 Steep PCC £25.00
08/01/2015 300076 HMRC PAYE £63.80
08/01/2015 300077 Wellers Law Group £662.40
01/12/2014 Standing Order Clerks December Wages £411.25
12/12/2014 BACS SLCC £50.50
22/12/2014 Direct Debit Biffa £86.58
Total Payments: £3,151.17

The following electronic payments were authorised and cheques signed:

20/01/2015 300078 Mrs M Snow £241.64
20/01/2015 BACS N W Adams £54.60
20/01/2015 BACS Jonathan Street £90.00
27/03/2015 Standing Order Recreation Ground Rent £10.00
Total Payments authorised £3,547.41

Cllr Snow queried the payment for Wellers Law Group and it was confirmed that this was a one off charge for work on the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

The Chairman signed the bank statements for the period.

- b) Internal Auditor – The cost for last year was £185 and this is based on the precept. **It was resolved** to ask Eleanor Greene to undertake the internal audit again this year.
- c) Bank account – change of signatories and administrator details – A letter to Unity Trust bank updating these details was duly signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- d) Half yearly accounts – The accounts were checked and signed by the Vice Chairman in advance of the meeting.

23.08.14 Correspondence

- a) **CPRE Waste of Space campaign** – It was confirmed that this didn't affect the village
- b) **NALC Parliamentary Briefing – Local Government Finance Settlement** – This was noted.
- c) **Hants News – December 2014 update from Hampshire County Council** – This was noted.
- d) **Draft East Hampshire District Local Plan:Housing &Employment Allocations Consultation** – The Clerk confirmed that this was no longer relevant as East Hants had confirmed that it only applied to parishes outside of the SDNP.

24.08.14 Future Agenda Items. – Village litterpick, May election and resignation of Councillors

Date of the next meeting will be Tuesday the 3rd of March 2015 at 7.30pm in Steep Village Hall.

Meeting Ended: 9.15pm

Signed
Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Clerk – E Foulston