

# Steeple Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money  
7 Roach Vale, Colchester, Essex. CO4 3YN  
Tel: 07810781509 email [steepleparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:steepleparishcouncil@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/steepleparishcouncil/>



## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>. November 2024 at 7pm in Steeple Village Hall

Present: Cllrs K. Davey (Chair), J. Partridge (Vice-Chair), M. Findlay, MDC Cllr L. Haywood and Kevin B. Money Parish Clerk. There were 14 members of the public present.

**096/2024 Apologies for Absence** were received from ECC W. Stamp, MDC Cllr L. Haywood and Cllr C. Poulter

### **097/2024 Declaration of Interest**

To declare any Pecuniary, Registerable or non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda  
**None Declared**

**098/2024 To approve the Minutes of the last Full Council meeting of Steeple Parish Council**  
To receive and agree the minutes of the last STPC meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup>. September 2024. **All Agreed**

**099/2024 Public Participation Session.** The Chairman will invite questions and observations from members of the public present. A maximum time of **15 minutes** will be allowed

A resident spoke on behalf of all residents attending this Parish Council meeting.

The road surface outside The Cottage and Rosedean Cottage, The Street, Steeple after the water mains burst on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October. We had a meeting with Chris Butcher from Essex Highways on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Residents that were affected by the flood pointed out to him that the road had been poorly finished, and the road had risen significantly since the burst and had been resurfaced with a hump in the road. He denied that there was any such hump. Since that meeting and the road reopened to traffic, residents in The Cottage, Hipsey's Cottage and 1 Rosedean are now suffering from extreme road vibration and noise as heavier vehicles such as lorries and buses go over the hump. So much so, that glasses are rattled in The Cottage. As advised by Chris Butcher, this has been reported on the Essex Highways website. No reply yet!

Drainage outside The Cottage, Rosedean Cottages, Hipseys and Mizzen are blocked. As advised by Chris Butcher, have reported it to Essex Highways website. No reply yet! Outside, 2 Rosedean Cottage, the drain cover has actually dropped and it is very hard for any excess water on the road to go down. Drainage blocked outside Steeple Stores, The Street.

Slip drains urgently needs to be addressed especially outside Mizzen Cottage, Rosedean Cottages, The Street. They are non-existent.

Ongoing issue with the pavement and road being higher than the sole plates of Hipseys, The Cottage, Rosedean Cottages, Mizzen Cottage and Steeple Stores.

The pavement outside The Cottage and Mizzen Cottage, The Street, has been raised and cracked both cottages flagstone doorsteps from the ferocity of the blast of the water mains. Needs to be resealed to stop water coming into the buildings. This has been reported on Essex Highways website as advised by Chris Butcher. No reply yet

The pathway outside Rosedean Cottages, more tarmac on the path was washed away when the workman jet washed the road and pathways.

Steeple Stores were told last week by Essex and Suffolk/Northumbrian Water workmen, when works were under way to rectify the water burst, that outside their house, the pipe is likely to burst again in the not-so-distant future. With, this in mind, the water board have put another valve just before The Star Pub, so they can switch it off. In less than a year, in a stretch of 500 yards, we have had 4 water mains burst, which have flooded homes. We would like to suggest that a weight limit is put in place on The Street, Steeple. The lorries are getting heavier and Essex and Suffolk workmen said this is one of the reasons the water pipes are bursting so often as well as old pipework that has passed its end of life. Residents were also told that the pipes have asbestos lining in the concrete which is also a concern to residents that any residue will get into the water which residents consume. These water bursts will continue to happen and will affect other residents in the village. Something needs to be done. We cannot continue to have homes flooded. This has affected all our mental health and our lives have been turned upside down.

From all residents residing at the following dwellings: Mulberry Cottage, Chance Cottage, Hipseys Cottage, The Cottage, 1 Rosedene Cottage, 2 Rosedean Cottage, Mizzen Cottage, Steeple Stores.

The Parish Councillors agreed to support this issue in any way they can

**100/2024 Highways issues**

a) **The Sun & Anchor site** - Update on proceedings from the developers to ask what's going on. No update from the Developer following an email sent to [info@laurennicolehomes.com](mailto:info@laurennicolehomes.com) on 22<sup>nd</sup>. October 2024. The leak again to chase. The barrier fencing is now encroaching on the pathway

b) **To discuss whether TruCam is still needed in the village**

Councillors agreed to discontinue with the TruCam for the remainder of the financial year. A speed survey from ECC Highways to be explored in the centre of the village

c) **Update on flooding issues in Steeple.** As discussed in item 099/2024

**101/2024 Planning Application/s.** No planning applications have been received

**102/2024 Planning Appeals affecting Steeple.** No planning appeals have been submitted

**103/2024 Planning Decision/s made by MDC affecting Steeple.** No planning decisions have been made

**104/2024 Monkey Challenge - The Play Solution for All Ages** – update Cllr J. Partridge

The wall has been installed and an opening ceremony was held. Thanks went to National Lottery for supporting this project.

An application £10,000 has been applied for a slide and granted. A slide and a gravity bowl with stepping stone and balance beam has been purchased and will be installed in January '25

**105/2024 Finance**

1) To receive the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2024

Councillors noted the Bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2024

2) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget 2024/2025

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget 2024/2025

3) To approve the payment of Accounts for October and November 2024 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council's financial requirements. **All Agreed**

4) Councillors to discuss changing to .gov.uk emails and website

Councillors noted the quotation to move the current emails and website over to the .gov.uk site.

Councillors agreed to leave changing to .gov.uk this year but to transfer the money into the EMR account.

**106/2024 2025/2026 draft budget.** Councillors to discuss the draft budget for 2025/2026

Councillors noted the 2025-2026 draft budget. This will be finalised at the 8<sup>th</sup>. January 2025 meeting

**107/2024 Date of Next Full Council meetings – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>. January 2025**

**108/2024 Councillors to note the 2025 meeting dates: 12.03.25: 14.05.25: 09.07.25: 10.09.25: 12.11.25**

**109/2024 Items for Next Agenda**

**110/2024 Closure of the Meeting**

To Close the meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.55pm and thanked everyone for attending.