

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 5th August 2013 at 8.10 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Burnham, Butcher, Green, Kelly, Kemp, Manning, Spearink and Perry who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr MJ Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gosling, Reardon, Sharp and Silkin whose apologies were accepted. Councillor Lain-Rose was absent (apology subsequently received).

URGENT ITEMS: - Councillors agreed that Planning Committee's referral of MA/08/2125 Iden Manor Nursing Home be taken under agenda item 6.3 Planning Committee report. No further items were requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors Ashby and Buller declared they had been lobbied about bus services.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in items on the agenda – none declared.

Requests for dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1282-1285 of 15th July 2013 were proposed for approval by Councillor Ashby, seconded by Councillor Butcher, approved by councillors nem con, signed by Chairman Perry and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan – (a) Future Programme (b) Report on Inception Day. *Chairman Perry closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the Rural Settlement Group.* The Chair of RSG reported on a successful Inception Day meeting of members of the Neighbourhood Plan project group with consultants Feria Urbanism, including visits to sites submitted under the MBC land call. He advised the next steps would be the organisation of events on 12th September (a 'Village Visioning' round table meeting for invited representatives of village groups) and 8-10 October (a three-day design forum concluding with a public evening presentation). He said village groups and other stakeholders would be contacted directly about the events. The Clerk advised that he was liaising with the Village Centre booking secretary to secure the North Hall as a venue. The Chair of RSG confirmed as previously circulated to councillors that the scale of the forum might require additional resource from Feria Urbanism depending on the scope of the subject matter and number of anticipated attendees. *Chairman Perry reopened the meeting.* Proposed by Councillor Buller, seconded by Councillor Green, councillors voted by majority (7 for, 2 against, 1 abstention) to agree to expenditure of £600 for the additional consultant resource in case of need.
2. Caretaker's Reports – The Clerk advised routine maintenance had been carried out.
3. Churchyard Agreement – Update on proposals for a new agreement. Chairman Perry advised he had sent draft heads of terms to the Rector and that a meeting would be held shortly.
4. County Councillor Meeting – Chairman Perry advised he had discussed with County Councillor Hotson the Parish Council's intention to approach MBC about the possible transfer of the Surrenden Field freehold to the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to

- enquire about the possibility of transferring Bell Lane Car Park. Councillors also agreed to confirm with Sainsbury's the current status of its development activity.
5. Developers' Proposals – Councillors noted that following its recent public exhibition Bovis Homes were seeking a meeting with the Chairman and other representatives of the Parish Council.
 6. Grass Cutting – Correspondence from Broomfield & Kingswood PC. Councillors noted the information about a possible opportunity for parishes to undertake their own grass-cutting, but agreed not to pursue enquiries at this stage.
 7. Kent Highways – Advice of Hertsfield Bridge Repairs. Councillors noted that Kent Highways are proposing to effect repairs in October/November. On a related matter they asked that the reinstatement of cats' eyes on the A229 be raised at the next county councillor meeting.
 8. MBC Member Development Session – Invitation from MBC re Enforcement & S106. Councillors Butcher and Kelly volunteered to attend the session on 22nd August.
 9. NALC Future Strategy – Consultation. Discussion deferred until 19th August.
 10. Passenger Transport in Isolated Communities – Parliamentary Consultation. Noted by councillors. Councillor Butcher undertook to discuss with Sainsbury's the scope for a community bus service.
 11. Provision of Allotments – The Chairman's letter of 23rd July to Golding Homes was noted. Councillor Manning advised that Borough Councillor Lusty had drawn his attention to planning applications in Marden that included provision of allotments. The Clerk referred to the MAP Depot site application of Redrow Homes (ref MA/13/0115) as an example.
 12. Supermarkets – No further news to report.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 20/09/13 http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
Councillors noted the Clerk's letter dated 30th July to Arriva about the falling standard of the local bus service. Councillor Ashby said she had received feedback about unsatisfactory handling of complaints. Councillor Buller endorsed from personal experience the comments about poor service.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting?
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, JP, PS)
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx Councillors agreed that as they could not attend the MBC Planning Committee meeting of 8th August at short notice they would submit a written statement in respect of MA/08/2125.
4. Allotments Project Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, BM) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx
5. Strategy & Policy Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SL, SG, RS) Next meeting 06/08/2013
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx Councillor Buller advised that the Play Scheme was going well although attendance numbers were lower than last year, possibly due to financial considerations and possibly due to the change of venue.
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? Report of meeting 02/07/13 awaited.
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller advised that Village Update distribution was due week commencing 2nd September.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Next meeting 14/08/13.
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
Councillor Burnham advised that Councillor Reardon was pursuing quotations for resurfacing of the play areas.

11. UpRockin 2013 (JP, PB) Chairman Perry thanked Councillor Butcher and Mrs Elaine Downton for their hard work in delivering the UpRockin event. Councillor Butcher thanked all the helpers and praised the contribution of the RFO in the Parish Office. He said attendees numbered 240 young people and 600 adults.
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillors agreed to ask the owners of the planter site at Chestnut Avenue whether they wished to transfer title to the land as had been done by the owner of the strip at Marden Road.

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx Chairman Perry advised he would be meeting representatives of the committee on 8th August.
2. Churchyard Liaison (PB, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx
3. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx
4. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 01/10/13. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
5. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/06/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx Councillor Buller advised that games activity had been reported on the field on Friday afternoon. The Clerk advised that he was already pursuing enquiries with MBC, but it appeared to be related to the borough's 'Aspire Summer of Sports' programme.
6. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 25/09/13. Minutes of meeting 19/06/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx
7. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) – Report of meeting 19/06/13 was noted.
8. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 29/05/13 awaited.
9. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 25/09/13 (AGM). Report of meeting 11/07/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
10. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, PS) Next meeting 19/09/13. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Report of meeting 02/07/13 awaited. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
13. Speed Watch (JB) <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx>
14. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB) Next meeting?
15. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS, PS) Report of meeting 13/03/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx Councillor Buller advised she had attended the PPG meeting on 31st July and the contract with Malling Health had been signed and was now in force.
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
18. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting 21/08/2013. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx Councillor Butcher advised that all would be welcome at the AGM on 21st August at the Youth Club.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident reported that the previous Saturday's 10.14 bus from Maidstone failed to stop at King Street, which was the latest in a series of such incidents. Complaints have been lodged with Arriva.