

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 8.25 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Buller, Claridge, Gosling, Kelly, Kemp, Lain-Rose, Manning, Spearink and Silkin who was in the Chair.  
Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Ashby, Burnham, Butcher, Perry and Reardon whose apologies were accepted. Councillor Sharp was absent.

**URGENT ITEMS:** None requested.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS** regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interest in Items on the Agenda – none declared.

Requests for Dispensation – none requested.

**APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES** Pages 1455-1458 of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Spearink, approved by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at [http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx)

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCES**

1. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Kemp, the list of accounts for payment was approved.
2. Summation of Accounts to 31 July 2015 (for noting). Noted by councillors and published at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).

**CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-**

1. Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan & Developer News  
*Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.*
  - a) Update from Steering Group re Reg. 16 Plan. The Clerk advised that MBC now wished to undertake another SEA screening exercise on the Neighbourhood Plan. He said he was pressing for this to be commenced ahead of some small adjustments that Feria would need to make at the start of September to produce a definitive version. Councillor Buller asked all councillors to read the plan document.
  - b) Update on MBC Draft Local Plan. Chairman Silkin and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group explained that a Gypsy and Travellers Policy had been withdrawn from the Neighbourhood Plan after Regulation 14 consultation because it failed to attract community support and because MBC had advised that policies should relate to land use and there was no land to be allocated. Chairman Silkin said he hoped to attend the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August of the MBC Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee. Mr Staunton-Lambert reported government statistics showing that at January 2015 Maidstone had 37% of all private caravans, 31% of all caravans and 49% of all unauthorised caravans in Kent authorities outside the M25. *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting.*
  - c) Developer News – Redrow Homes: Meeting 20/08/15; Public Exhibition 10/09/15. It was agreed that Councillors Silkin, Kelly, Buller, Kemp and the Chair of Rural Settlement Group would attend the meeting with Redrow Homes on 20<sup>th</sup> August.
2. Caretaker's Report – no items to report.

3. Jubilee Field – Correspondence from Management Committee (for comment). Councillors noted comments from a resident and members of the Jubilee Field Management Committee about the impact of rabbits on the Jubilee Field. They also noted the requirements of the Pests Act 1954 in respect of occupiers' obligations to control rabbits. By six votes to two (Councillors Buller and Gosling against) they voted to seek expert advice on control measures.
4. Kent Highways Meeting – Invitation from Highways Steward to discuss highways issues (to nominate attendees and preferred dates in Sept/Oct). Councillors agreed that a meeting should be arranged (Councillors Kemp and Reardon to attend).
5. Public Toilets – Correspondence from NALC (for comment). Councillors noted that NALC is campaigning for an exemption from business rates on toilets run by parishes. Whilst acknowledging that Staplehurst Parish Council currently enjoys 100% small business rate relief, councillors agreed that they wished to support the principle of NALC's campaign and to write an appropriate letter of support.
6. Try Angle Award Presentation Evening 08/09/15 – Invitation (for decision). Councillor Lain-Rose volunteered to attend the event on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS** – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 18/09/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst\\_transport.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx)
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 17/09/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc\\_emergency\\_planning\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx)
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, CC, TB, AG, PK, NK, RS, PS,) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx)
4. Allotments Project Group (TB, PK, JB, BM) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx)
5. Strategy & Policy Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, CC, SL, RS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx)
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx)
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Councillor Spearink said he would be attending a meeting in two weeks' time and would report back.
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS)
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth\\_activities\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx) Councillor Buller extended an invitation to councillors to visit Play Scheme in its final week. She said that attendance figures were lower than last year. A post-scheme review meeting will be held as usual.
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity\\_website.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx)
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 09/09/15. Report of meeting 05/08/15 awaited. Report of meeting 08/07/15 posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx).
12. Staff Group (JB, PK, SL, BM, JP)
13. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group (TB, AG, SL) Next meeting 10/09/15. Report of meeting 06/08/15 posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_redevelopment\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx).
14. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, PK, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
15. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx).
16. Youth Club (PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx)

### **REPORTS FOR NOTING** from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_carnival\\_fete\\_committee.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx)
2. Churchyard Liaison (PB, PK) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/07/15 posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups\\_2.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx)
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 06/10/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn\\_aerodrome.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx)
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee\\_fields\\_users\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx)

5. KALC Area Committee (RS, PK, PB, JP) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent\\_association\\_of\\_local\\_councils.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx)
6. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) Next meeting?
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting AGM 23/09/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe\\_day\\_centre.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx)
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB, NK) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, NK, AS) Next meeting 20/08/15? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 01/09/15. Report of meeting 02/06/15 awaited. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Spearink advised that Helen Grant MP would be visiting on 21<sup>st</sup> August to see the impact of High Street parking on Sobell Lodge residents.
13. Speed Watch (JB) <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx>
14. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB) Next meeting?
15. Staplehurst Library Users Group (JB, BM)
16. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, AS, RS). Next meeting 14/10/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient\\_participation\\_group\\_at\\_health\\_centre.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx) .
17. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR)
18. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/07/15 awaited.
19. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (MA, PB) Next meeting? Report of meetings 11/11/14, 03/12/14, 06/01/15 and 24/02/15 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_trust.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx)
20. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Before the meeting a resident asked about the allocation of gypsy and traveller sites in Staplehurst and said that she wanted to see a more even allocation across the borough. Further discussion of the subject took place when the meeting was closed for public discussion of the MBC Local Plan.

**POLICE REPORT:** PCSO Gardner's report showed four crimes: one criminal damage; three thefts.