

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 3rd March 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Buller, Burnham, Butcher, Gosling, Green, Kemp, Lain-Rose, Manning, Reardon, Sharp, Silkin, Spearink and Perry who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Ashby and Kemp whose reasons for apology were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - No items were requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed traffic regulation order.

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 1330-1332 of 17th February 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Silkin, 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 – *Chairman Perry closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.* The Chair of RSG reported on his attendance at MBC Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings on 18th and 24th February and at a meeting of southern parishes organised by Coxheath Parish Council to discuss the MBC draft local plan. He advised that MBC would be making a third call for potential development sites as there was still a housing shortfall in the draft plan. He reported that the meeting of southern parishes revealed a borough-wide discontent with the draft plan and that a letter would be sent to MBC requesting a halt to the proposed consultation. He reminded councillors to sign up for the rota to man the next Neighbourhood Plan consultation event on 13th, 15th and 16th March. *Chairman Perry reopened the meeting.* Councillor Burnham read to the meeting a draft of the proposed letter to be sent to MBC on behalf of the southern parishes. Councillors agreed to indicate their approval of the proposed letter, with an additional comment about affordable housing in new developments and specifically how MBC's requirement appears illogically higher in rural areas compared to urban ones.
2. Caretaker's Report – no items to report.
3. Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Membership Renewal (for decision). Councillors agreed to renew membership at a cost of £65 to cover both the Parish Council and the Village Centre.
4. Business Rates – Share for Local Councils (request to support Sevenoaks T.C. proposal). Councillors agreed to support a proposal by Sevenoaks Town Council for a return to a system to provide a percentage of business (non-domestic) rates to town and parish councils to be used for the benefit of economic growth in the locality.
5. Churchyard Agreement – Chairman Perry reported that the archdeacon had confirmed matters relating to the new maintenance agreement were in hand. Councillor Kelly said emergency tree work had been undertaken and details of the cost were awaited.
6. Environment Agency – Report of Meeting 18/02/14 & Update. Councillors noted Councillor Kemp's report of a public meeting held by Yalding Parish Council with

- representatives of agencies and local authorities. Chairman Perry advised he and Councillor Spearink would be meeting Environment Agency officers on 4th March.
7. KALC Planning Conference 22nd March 2014 - Information (for decision re attendance). Noted by councillors who were requested to advise if they wished to attend.
 8. KCC Consultation – Young Persons Travel Pass (invitation to comment). Councillors agreed to respond to this public consultation that they felt the amended proposals were an improvement on the previous ones.
 9. KCC Rail Summit 30th April 2014 – Invitation (for decision re attendance). Councillor Burnham said he would attend the meeting. Councillor Green asked that the subject be tabled again at the next council meeting to discuss concerns ahead of the summit.
 10. Openness of Local Government Bodies Draft Regulations – NALC Consultation. Councillors noted the consultation without comment.
 11. Traffic Regulation Order – Marden Road 30 mph Extension (draft for comment). Councillors agreed to support the proposal to extend the 30 mph limit to a point 171 metres west of Oliver Road.
 12. Trees in the Village Competition 2014 – Correspondence (for decision). Councillors agreed not to enter the competition.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 11/04/14. Report of meeting 07/02/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx. Councillor Spearink reported continuing problems with the no. 5 bus service. Councillor Reardon and Councillor Spearink spoke of an incident when a driver had not accepted a valid bus pass on a service.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 24/03/14 AGM. Report of meeting 19/12/13 awaited. 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. Councillor Buller reported that MBC Planning Committee had refused the amended Tesco planning application by 10 votes to 0, with 3 abstentions, on the basis of upholding policy ENV28. Some councillors expressed disappointment that the address to the meeting by the ward councillor supporting Tesco's application did not acknowledge the Parish Council's position. Councillor Green suggested co-ordinating attendees planning to speak at the informal hearing of Tesco's appeal relating to its first application. Councillor Buller advised that MBC Planning Committee had approved the latest Surrenden Mews application.
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 t.b.a. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx Chairman Perry said a meeting would be organised to continue the work on new standing orders.
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) The report of the meeting on 20/02/14 was noted. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller expressed thanks to distributors of the Village Update. She advised that she would be seeking contributions from all councillors to the Annual Report.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Next meeting 12/03/14. Report of meeting 12/02/14 posted at 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> Chairman Perry reported that MBC had indicated it would be prepared to consider granting a 125 year lease on the field. He said he would discuss this with Councillor Hotson. Councillor Reardon advised that the contractor would be attending to the north and west hedges as soon as possible and to the Crowther Close hedge once the ground becomes drier.

11. UpRockin 2014 (JP, PB) Next meeting?
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillor Buller encouraged volunteers to book roads to cover during the Village Clean-Up on 22nd March.

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx On behalf of the Carnival & Fete Committee Councillor Manning asked for the Parish Council's agreement to events on Surrenden Playing Field: a 10K run on 15th June (08.00 – 12.00) and a Carnival & Fete on 28th June (07.30 set-up for 12.00 – 17.30), with funfair arriving 23/24 June. Councillors agreed subject to appropriate insurance and licensing arrangements being made.
2. Churchyard Liaison (PB, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 04/03/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 19/03/14. Minutes of meeting 18/11/13 and report of AGM 23/11/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx
6. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) Next meeting? Report of meeting 04/09/13 awaited.
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 20/03/14. Minutes of meeting 16/01/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 20/02/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK) Next meeting? Report of meeting 14/02/14 posted at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 04/03/14. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
13. Speed Watch (JB) <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx> Councillors agreed that Councillor Buller should attend a Road Safety & Speed Watch Seminar in Maidstone on 14th April.
14. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB) Next meeting?
15. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS, PS) Report of meeting 22/01/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting 11/03/14. Minutes of meeting 11/02/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
18. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx
19. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx Councillor Butcher advised that KCC was withdrawing funding of youth support which would affect the Friday night sessions.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting Mr Richard Hawkes gave a presentation of ideas for a WW1 memorial and a commemorative garden on the Youth Club land adjoining the High Street and answered questions from councillors and members of the public. Speakers expressed opinions about the suitability of the proposed site, the landscaping and the suggested style of the memorial. Further reflection on these points will take place. A resident spoke about the known problem of sewage flooding which has affected properties on Marden Road.