

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 16th November 2015 at 7.35 p.m.

Before the meeting all stood in respectful silence as a gesture of sympathy with the victims of events in Paris on 13th November.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Reardon and Sharp whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - Councillors agreed to take one item of urgent business relating to the events in Paris on 13th November.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillors Buller and Perry declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Manning declared he had been lobbied about the A229 at Knoxbridge.

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 1478-1481 of 2nd November 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Manning, APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Councillors Buller, Kelly and Kemp abstained.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

1. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Ashby, the list of accounts for payment was APPROVED. Payments for the period 10 October to 6 November totalled £11,994.60; receipts for the period were £7,026.51 (Parish Council) and £0.55 (Village Centre Contingency Account).
2. Summation of Accounts to 6 November 2015. NOTED by councillors and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Urgent Items – Councillor Spearink proposed and Councillor Perry seconded that following the bombings in Paris on 13th November the Parish Council write a letter of condolence to the French Ambassador in London. After discussion in which the Clerk drew councillors' attention to Standing Order 9a and there was unanimous sympathy with victims of the events and recognition that similar events unfortunately occurred elsewhere in the world, councillors RESOLVED with two abstentions that the proposed letter be sent.
2. Neighbourhood Plan - Reg. 16 Consultation Progress: (i) MBC Strategic Planning, Sustainability & Transportation Committee. Councillor Perry reported that the committee had agreed that the officer's report should be MBC's formal representation about the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan, with the addition of an informative comment recognising a connection between NP Policy H6 and Local Plan Policy ED2. He reported that he had been disappointed by the approach taken by the committee. Councillor

Buller reported that she had attended the committee meeting and thanked Councillor Perry for his address to the members. Councillor Perry said that whilst there was an opportunity to call in the committee's decision, he recommended that the Parish Council send a formal letter to the inspector appointed to examine the Neighbourhood Plan setting out the issues it had with MBC's representation. Councillors RESOLVED to send such a letter and copy it to the Chairman of MBC Strategic Planning, Sustainability & Transportation Committee, MBC Chief Executive and MBC Head of Planning & Development. (ii) Information Event 18/11/15. Councillor Buller and the Clerk reported that arrangements were in hand for the information evening. The Clerk reminded Councillors that MBC awaited their view about the nominations for the role of inspector to examine the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan (Min 1478); after discussion councillors RESOLVED to advise MBC that from the nominated candidates their preference was for Clare Wright.

3. Borough Councillor Update (JP) – *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow contribution from Borough Councillor Brice.* Borough Councillors Brice and Perry spoke about a range of issues in which they were currently involved including seeking improvements to the A229/Headcorn Road/Marden Road crossroads, Arriva bus timings, gypsy and traveller issues, allocation of S106 funds, planning development proposals, the Maidstone Destination Management Plan and the Parish Charter. *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting.*
4. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk advised that the caretaker had cleared many paths of autumn leaves.
5. Five Acre Wood School – Verbal report on visit (PS, BM, JP - for information). Councillors Manning, Perry and Spearink REPORTED that they had visited the school in Boughton Lane which catered for children with learning difficulties. They said they had been most impressed by the commitment of the staff and the facilities provided for the children, noting that seven of the pupils were from the Staplehurst area.
6. KALC Finance Conference – Written report on conference 22/10/15. Chairman Silkin's report was NOTED by councillors and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx.
7. Kent Highways Services – SPC response to survey (for final comment). Chairman Silkin REQUESTED councillors to provide the Assistant Clerk with final comments by 17th November.
8. Kent Highways Services - Report on Parish & Town Council Seminar (JR - for information). The Clerk advised that Councillor Reardon would be sending his comments to councillors by e-mail.
9. Leeds-Langley Relief Road – Correspondence from Leeds Parish Council requesting support for petition (for decision). Councillor Burnham commented that Staplehurst Parish Council had expressed support for the relief road in its comments on the MBC Draft Local Plan. Councillors RESOLVED that the Parish Council should support the aim of the Leeds Parish Council petition and NOTED that they could sign the petition as individuals if they so wished.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 30/10/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 20/01/16. Report of meeting 21/10/15 was noted and posted at 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 Councillor Burnham reported that revised details for application 14/505432 Land North of Headcorn Road had just been received and that the MBC planning officer would not grant an extension of the consultation period beyond 3rd December to accommodate the Parish Council's next meeting on 7th

December. Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Burnham, councillors RESOLVED to hold an extraordinary meeting of full council on Monday 30th November at 7.30pm to discuss the revised details.

4. Allotments Project Group (TB, PK, JB, BM) Next meeting? 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
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting: early December. Report of meeting 06/11/15 was noted and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx. Proposal for reappointment of internal auditor for 2016-17 – proposed by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Kelly councillors RESOLVED to reappoint Iden Business Services as internal auditor for 2016-17.
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting?
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting 23/11/15. Councillor Spearink advised that working group members would be meeting a representative of Taylor Wimpey on 23rd November.
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 09/12/15. Report of meeting 04/11/15 awaited. Reports of meetings 09/09/15 and 07/10/15 were noted and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
12. Staff Group (JB, PK, SL, BM, JP) Next meeting?
13. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group (TB, AG, SL) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx Proposal from Group for expenditure on survey of the Village Centre (for decision) – proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Gosling, councillors RESOLVED to agree expenditure of £1,495 on a survey to be undertaken by Dobanti Chartered Surveyors and NOTED that the expenditure was budgeted in the Village Centre Feasibility Fund.
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
16. Youth Club (PK) Next meeting? 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
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 08/03/16. 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
5. KALC Area Committee (RS, PK, PB, JP) Next meeting 23/11/15. 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? Reports of meetings 23/09/15 and 22/10/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, NK, AS) Next meeting 19/11/15. Report of meeting 24/09/15 awaited. 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? Report of meeting 01/09/15 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 Library Users Group (JB, BM) Next meeting?

16. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, AS, RS). Next meeting? Report of meeting 14/10/15 awaited. 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?
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
20. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident requested councillors to support the Leeds Parish Council petition about a Leeds-Langley relief road.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Gardner's report showed six crimes: 1 theft; 2 burglaries; 1 theft from motor vehicle, 1 theft of a motor vehicle; 1 taking a vehicle without owner's consent.