

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.50 p.m.

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

**APOLOGIES:** None as all members were present.

**URGENT ITEM:** - Councillors agreed to take one item of urgent business relating to the Kent Highways Parish and Town Council Seminar as a response was required before the next Council meeting.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:**

Lobbying – Councillors Buller, Burnham and Perry declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors Buller, Butcher, Perry and Spearink declared they had been lobbied about Community Wardens. Councillor Ashby declared she had been lobbied about parking in Bell Lane. Councillors Buller, Perry and Spearink declared they had been lobbied about the local bus service.

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 1376-1379 of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Manning, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, approved by councillors, signed by the Chairman and made available at [http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx). Councillors Ashby, Butcher and Reardon abstained.

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

1. Urgent Item – Councillors Spearink and Silkin agreed to attend the KHS Parish and Town Council Seminar on 19<sup>th</sup> November.
2. Neighbourhood Plan – Councillors noted the report of the Steering Group Meeting on 17/09/14 and that a follow-up meeting was scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the draft consultation statement. Councillor Buller advised that a feedback evening was being planned for 12<sup>th</sup> November to inform people about the consultation responses. Councillors noted that there would be much work to be done before then and that an update would be given to the next Full Council meeting. The Clerk undertook to circulate the draft consultation statement received from FERIA Urbanism. Councillor Perry stated that he believed the next iteration of the Neighbourhood Plan should state housing numbers for the identified sites.
3. Maidstone Borough Council Update – Verbal Report (JP). Councillor Perry said that site allocations were a major issue for the Local Plan. He hoped to have more news on the subject at the next Full Council meeting.
4. Caretaker's Report – Proposal to purchase equipment. Councillors agreed unanimously to fund purchase of a hedge trimmer for the caretaker's use and recommended that if possible a long-bladed four-stroke item be acquired within a budget of up to £250.
5. Elections 2015 – Correspondence from KALC. Councillors noted that KALC had provided material to commence its support of the May 2015 election process and that the Parish Council would follow up the article in the autumn Village Update with a further item in the next issue.

6. KCC Community Warden Consultation – Invitation to respond. Councillors expressed strong opposition to the proposed reduction in community warden numbers and agreed to respond to the questionnaire and write a separate letter to KCC. Chairman Silkin said he would draft responses. Details of the consultation already in 'Latest News' on the village website will be added to the Forum.
7. Kent County Playing Fields Association – Invitation to Annual Council Meeting 17/10/14. Councillors were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend the meeting.
8. Memorials – Proposals re (1) local memorials (2) siting of commemorative benches (PS). (1) Councillor Spearink proposed that the Parish Council approach the family of the late Mr Ted Sergison to offer to take on responsibility for memorials at the station, Chickenden Lane and Grave Lane; this was agreed by Councillors. Councillor Spearink will approach the Sergison family. (2) Councillor Spearink advised that funded benches were being offered in memory of Mr Sergison and Sgt Fitzgerald and proposed they be located respectively at the Chickenden Lane memorial and at the future Fitzgerald Gardens on the new Golding Homes development at Bell Lane, the latter to be maintained by Golding Homes; this was agreed by councillors. Councillor Spearink will take matters forward.
9. Parish Council Meeting Dates 2015 – The proposed meeting dates for 2015, following the established pattern of first and third Monday each month, were approved.
10. Parish Council Surgery – Report on 27/09: Councillor Kemp said it had been very quiet. Representatives for future dates: Councillor Spearink (25/10); Councillor Lain-Rose (29/11). Chairman Silkin said he would ask Borough Councillor Watson if she would like a Parish Council representative to join her surgery.
11. Parking at Bell Lane Car Park – Correspondence re suggested improvement. Councillors agreed to contact MBC in support of a resident's request for line marking and mention the need for attention to the car park surface.
12. Royal British Legion – Correspondence re Remembrance Day Parade & Service. Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Kemp, councillors agreed a donation of £100 to RBL. Chairman Silkin said he would lay the wreath at the service. Councillor Reardon said he would organise deployment of 'Road Closed' signs.
13. Taylor Wimpey – Update on proposed visit of community site (16/10/14, 3.00pm). The Clerk reminded councillors to advise him if they wished to join the visit to the proposed green space adjacent to the new development south of Oliver Road.

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

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 19/09/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst\\_transport.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx) Councillor Spearink said that a productive meeting had been held with Helen Grant MP and Arriva; he said he had addressed MBC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and emphasised the importance of reliability in delivering a sustainable bus service. Councillor Perry said he was writing to KCC about service shortfalls. Chairman Silkin said he and Councillor Kemp had met Staplehurst's Kent Highways steward and discussed KHS's procedures for dealing with complaints about vegetation and signage; anyone reporting an issue is asked to be as precise as possible about the location.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next activity 15/10/14. [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, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, 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, 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, SG, SL, JR) Report of meeting 16/09/14 posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx) Chairman Silkin confirmed that he was seeking a

meeting with representatives of Chapel Lane residents about street lighting and that the subject would be discussed at Full Council thereafter.

7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth\\_activities\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx)
8. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Report of meetings 25/03/14 and 15/07/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity\\_website.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx) Councillor Buller reminded councillors that articles for the winter Village Update were required. She said the Group's recommendation was that the Update should continue in its present form at least until the end of the Neighbourhood Plan process. Councillor Reardon said he intended to extend the use of the Parish Council's Facebook page to cover wider community activities. *Councillor Reardon left the meeting at this point.*
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting 15/10/14. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](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>
11. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx). Update on actions relating to signage and vegetation (Mins 1363-64) and planters (Min 1367). Councillor Kelly said he had undertaken some clearance and cleaning during his village rounds, as requested by the Parish Council. He advised he was in discussions with the Staplehurst Society about sponsorship signs for the planters.
12. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx). The youth leader's report dated 24/09/14 was noted. More frequent reports will follow. Councillor Lain-Rose said that at the request of Councillor Butcher he was stepping down as Parish Council representative to the Youth Club; Chairman Silkin thanked him for his contribution. Noting that Councillor Kelly continued to be a Parish Council representative, councillors decided not to nominate a second person.

#### **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)  
Councillor Burnham commended the committee on a splendid jazz evening on 20<sup>th</sup> September.
2. Churchyard Liaison (PB, PK, AG) Next meeting? [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 07/10/14. [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) Report of meeting 18/09/14 awaited. Minutes of meeting 26/06/14 posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee\\_fields\\_users\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx)
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 22/10/14. [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 20/11/14. Report of meeting 24/09/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe\\_day\\_centre.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx)
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, PS) Next meeting 20/11/14. Minutes of meetings 21/08/14 and 27/05/14 awaited [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) Report of meeting 30/09/14 awaited. Minutes of meeting 08/07/14 posted at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Kemp said that information about planned measures for the Beult should emerge at the next meeting.
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 09/12/14. Report of meeting 02/09/14 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) Report of meeting 22/01/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient\\_participation\\_group\\_at\\_health\\_centre.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx)
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR) Councillor Gosling reported that the school was seeking funding for work on its play garden. She said the Garden Club had

won second prize in a Kent Life Magazine competition. Councillors agreed to send a letter of congratulations.

17. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (NK). Councillor Kemp said that the group had met on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. He said it was seeking hard information on areas prone to flooding, to include precise time and location details and evidence such as photographs. He asked councillors to encourage people to send information to him as a matter of urgency.
18. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting? Reports of meetings 15/04/14 and 13/05/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_trust.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx)
19. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot\\_hers.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx)

Chairman.....

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Before the meeting a resident asked that all members speak up during proceedings. After the meeting a resident spoke of overcrowding on the bus service from Cranbrook.