

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.45 p.m.

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Butcher, Kemp and Reardon whose apologies were accepted.  
Councillor Lain-Rose was absent.

**URGENT ITEMS:** - none.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:**

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Gosling declared she had been lobbied about Five Oak Lane and Hush Heath Winery.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in items on the agenda – Councillor Gosling declared an interest in items relating to Five Oak Lane and Hush Heath Winery due to proximity of residence. Councillor Perry declared an interest in the item relating to Hush Heath Winery due to his position on MBC Licensing Committee and said he would not vote on any related proposal.

Requests for dispensation – Councillor Gosling requested a dispensation to speak and vote on items relating to Five Oak Lane and Hush Heath Winery in the interests of persons living in the Parish, which was agreed by Councillors.

**APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES** Pages 1428-1431 of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Ashby, seconded by Councillor Gosling, approved by councillors and posted at [http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).

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

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Update from Steering Group. Councillor Green said that as this was his last Council meeting he wished to commend the work to date on the Neighbourhood Plan and hoped that the Parish Council would press forward with it. Councillor Buller reported that the Steering Group had discussed an initial draft of the Regulation 16 plan with Fera Urbanism as well as some key principles ahead of a meeting with MBC's Spatial Policy Team to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May.
2. Borough Council Update – Councillor Perry said that new arrangements after the election would include the grouping of standards and governance together with audit under one committee. He said he would continue to advance the cause of neighbourhood plans.
3. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk reported that hopefully the caretaker would be fit to return to work next week and in the meantime volunteers, councillors and office staff were picking up litter.
4. Five Oak Lane – Proposal to seek speed limit and improved marking/signage. Councillor Gosling advocated measures to deal with heavy and speeding traffic in Five Oak Lane including a 30 mph speed limit and signage and line marking at the Five Ash Lane junction. Councillor Perry observed that traffic was a general issue across most country lanes. Councillors Spearink and Manning offered advice from their own experience of other locations about the need to gather evidence and the not inconsiderable time it can take to secure measures. Proposed by Councillor Gosling, seconded by Councillor Manning, Councillors agreed to raise the concerns with Kent Highways and County Councillor Hotson.

5. Licensing – Correspondence relating to Hush Heath Winery. Councillor Gosling stated that events were being held and promoted at Hush Heath Winery whereas the premises licence did not cover them. She said that this was creating noise and traffic issues. Councillors noted the advice of the Senior Licensing Officer that a Temporary Events Notice could be issued up to twelve times a year (fifteen in 2016). Councillors asked for further information about whether such notice involved advising local residents and what grounds were considered by the Environmental Health Officer when considering a request for such a notice. They also asked for information about the planning history of the site.
6. Mayor's Civic Parade 23/05/15 – Invitation to nominate a Parish Council representative. Councillor Spearink volunteered to attend the event.
7. MBC Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy – Invitation to Update Meeting 20/05/15. No councillors were available to attend the event.
8. Surgery – Report on Parish Council Issues raised on 25<sup>th</sup> April (SL-R). No report was available as Councillor Lain-Rose was absent.
9. Youth Club – Quotations for one-off and regular grounds work (for approval). Councillors voted by eight votes to one (with one abstention) to accept the quotations from Forestry First of £510 and £615 for one-off clearance and regular maintenance respectively of the Youth Club grounds, asking that particular attention be paid to not disturbing any wildlife during clearance.

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

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 19/06/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst\\_transport.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx) Councillor Perry's written report of a meeting with Arriva on 24/04/15 was noted.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting June t.b.a. Minutes of AGM 23/03/15 awaited. [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). Councillor Burnham advised that Planning Committee had referred to Full Council the proposed appeal hearing on 12<sup>th</sup> May for the outline application for Land at George Street 14/501185. Chairman Silkin and Councillor Buller volunteered to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
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) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx)
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) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity\\_website.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx) Councillor Buller advised that the Annual Report was on track for distribution during the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June. Councillor Manning stated the Carnival programme would be ready at that time.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting 06/05/15. Report of meeting 08/04/15 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx).
10. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group
11. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Burnham reported that a spring-mounted item of play equipment had broken from its mounting. The Clerk will seek to move the item into temporary storage and to obtain a cost for repair.
12. 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). Councillor Kelly said he had been investigating the cost of planters for possible mounting on the High Street railings and they would be £55 each. The Chairman asked that advice be taken from insurers in the absence of agreement to the planters from Kent Highways. Councillor Spearink said he had

accompanied Forestry First on a visual inspection of trees at the Oliver Road woodland and that one tree gave cause for serious concern; a written report was awaited.

13. Youth Club (PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx). The report of the Youth Leader dated 27/04/15 was noted.

**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? [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? Minutes of meeting 03/03/15 awaited. [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 14/05/15. [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? Report of AGM 29/04/15 awaited. [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? Reports of meetings 24/09/14 and 20/11/14 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 21/05/15. Minutes of meeting 15/01/15 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) Next meeting June/July 2015 (t.b.c.). <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 02/06/15. Report of meeting 03/03/15 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 Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS) Next meeting 01/07/15. Report of meeting 15/04/15 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)
17. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (NK) Next meeting? Report of meeting 02/10/14 awaited.
18. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (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)
19. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Before the meeting a resident spoke about his concerns about traffic speed and volume on Five Oak Lane and Five Ash Lane and about events at Hush Heath Winery. Two residents voiced their concerns about traffic issues in the Five Oak Lane area. After the meeting a resident said he would provide further information about Hush Heath Winery.