

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 19th December 2016 at 7.40 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Claridge and Reardon.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

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 Minute pages 1580-1582 of 5th December 2016 were proposed for approval by Councillor Gosling, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

FINANCE REPORTS:-

1. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Perry, the list of accounts for payment was APPROVED. Payments for the period 12th November to 9th December totalled £7,036.59; receipts for the period were £545.39.
2. Summation of Accounts to 09 December 2016 (for noting). NOTED by Councillors and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Presentation: it was suggested that the presentation of sole use reserves and open space reserves be amended for greater clarity. S106 Funds: Councillor Burnham suggested the Jubilee Field Management Committee could consider whether some S106 funds could be put towards car park improvements at Jubilee Field.

CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:-

1. Kent Minerals & Waste Sites Plans: Call for Sites – Consultation by KCC (for comment, if any, by 30/01/17). Councillor Spearink volunteered to review the consultation documents.
2. Parish Surgery – (i) Report on parish surgery held 10 December. Councillor Buller reported that items raised were: trees felled at Parisfield due to rotting at base; planning application for land south of Marden Road; closure of NatWest Staplehurst branch; poor drainage of the highway near the High Street chemist; poor quality of block paving at The Parade. Councillor Buller said she had logged the relevant faults with Kent Highways. (ii) Appointment of representatives for future surgeries: 7th January Cllr Burnham; 14th January Cllr Ashby; 21st January Cllr Gosling; 28th January Councillors Spearink and Whittle plus Borough Councillor Surgery. Councillor Perry said he would also be running his borough councillor surgery on 31st December.
3. Working Week – Report on proposed amended working hours for the Parish Office (for decision) (SL-R). Councillors discussed the previously circulated report of Cllr Lain-Rose dated 12th December. They AGREED nem con to the proposed change to a Monday to Thursday working week for the Parish Office with effect from 1st February 2017, noting that these days would be covered by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS (from Committee/Groups/Office on specific issues or as regular update)

1. Clerk's Report – the Clerk reported that (i) temporary cover for the village caretaker would be needed for a two month period in early spring; (ii) the Clerk had been liaising with various parties to set up a meeting with NatWest to discuss the closure of Staplehurst branch; (iii) representatives of Southern Water had given an informative presentation to some members of the Parish Council about the Staplehurst Drainage Area Plan and a copy of the presented information was awaited; (iv) a hard copy of the Staplehurst Housing Needs Survey Report was available from the Parish Office for consultation.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
 - a) Headcorn Road Parking Survey – Report on survey results and decision re next steps. Item deferred from 5th December. Councillors NOTED the results of the survey undertaken of addresses in the vicinity of the Headcorn Road/A229 junction about parking on Headcorn Road (pursuant to parish council decision taken 03/10/16 Min 1565). They asked that the report be sent to appropriate parties in KCC and MBC with an expression of Parish Council support for the majority view favouring an extension of double yellow lines on both sides of the road as far as Hurst Close and the footpath to Benden Close. It was NOTED that any decision would have to be made by KCC Highways.
 - b) Rural Settlement Group – Minutes of meeting 09/11/16 (for noting). NOTED by Councillors. The Clerk confirmed that a letter of thanks had been sent to Richard Eastham of FERIA Urbanism for his work on the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan.
3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only
 - a) MBC Local Plan Hearing 08/11/16 – Oral report by Councillor Buller on hearing covering Rural Service Centres, including possible development at Lodge Road Staplehurst (deferred from 05/12/16). Councillor Buller reported that she and the Chair of RSG had attended the MBC Local Plan Hearing session on rural service centres on 8th November. A long session had seen Staplehurst discussed at the end of the day when the Inspector considered a MBC-proposed amendment to allocate housing at Lodge Road. Councillor Buller said that the Inspector had instead favoured the mixed use proposal contained in the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan (policy H6), finding that MBC's proposal did not properly reflect the NP policy.
 - b) Great Pagehurst Appeal Hearing – Oral report by Councillor Buller on hearing held 30/11/16. Councillor Buller said she and Councillor Perry had attended the first day of the hearing relating to the proposed Great Pagehurst solar farm (application 13/1456), the second day comprising a site visit. She felt it was difficult to gauge the Inspector's thoughts. Councillor Perry thanked Councillor Buller for the work she had put into attending the sessions.

REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNCILS, AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS for noting:-

1. Borough Councillor's Oral Report – Councillor Perry discussed the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan that had now been formally made. He said he had spoken at the meeting of MBC Policy and Resources Committee on 14/12/16. The Committee had agreed, after some discussion and subject to negotiation on commercial and legal aspects, to transfer the freehold of Surrenden Field and Nicholson Walk to the Parish Council. A written report and motion for Parish Council approval would be discussed at the January meeting of Full Council. *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting for a contribution from Borough Councillor Brice.* She said she had been involved in a range of issues including the Great Pagehurst appeal, proposed redevelopment of the Railway Tavern site, the temporary traffic lights and proposed new crossing on Marden Road, a petition to

NatWest about the closure of Staplehurst branch and infrastructure projects. Borough Councillor Brice also thanked Councillor Buller for her hard work.

2. PCSO Report – monthly crime statistics. Item deferred as the statistics had not been received.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS (written reports for noting):-

1. Kent Association of Local Councils – Minutes of Maidstone Area Committee meeting 30/11/16. NOTED by Councillors.
2. Patient Participation Group – Minutes of AGM 26/10/16 (deferred from 05/12/16). NOTED by Councillors.

URGENT MATTERS (at Chairman’s discretion, information only items for noting or for decision at a future meeting)

No items were raised.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: No items were raised.