

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 3rd November 2014 at 7.20 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Burnham, Gosling, Green, Kelly, Manning, Perry (from the point indicated in the minutes due to ward councillor business), Reardon, Sharp, Spearink and Silkin who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Kemp and Lain-Rose whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEM: - None requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Ashby and Buller declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors Buller and Burnham declared they had been lobbied about Chapel Lane street lights. Councillor Ashby declared she had been lobbied about Sainsbury's Section 106 Money.

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 1384-1387 of 20th October 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Buller, seconded by Councillor Spearink, approved by councillors, signed by the Chairman and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Councillor Ashby abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan – (1) Steering Group Report (2) Feedback Event 12/11/14. *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.* The Chair of RSG advised that the Steering Group had reviewed comments on the draft plan and had prepared for discussion a draft steer on what could be the Parish Council's position. He said MBC's opinion that the Neighbourhood Plan would require a Strategic Environmental Assessment would be discussed at a meeting called by MBC on 10th November. After extensive discussion of the issues and review of the Steering Group's report previously circulated to councillors and issued to members of the public in attendance *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting* and councillors resolved to agree: (a) to deletion of policy H6 Gypsy & Traveller sites and to associated changes; (b) to recommendations on modifications of policies H4 and H5 in terms of access, traffic, sewage, sequencing and associated design criteria (Councillor Kelly asked that his dissent be recorded); (c) policy PW4 should remain unchanged; (d) that the discussion of employment space on page 49 should not be formalised into a policy (Councillors Buller and Gosling against); (e) to deletion of discussion of strategic links on page 50; (f) to review further the part of policy VH1 relating to connectivity of routes pending receipt of further information; (g) to add a section about the conservation area and listed buildings; (h) policy PW3 should remain unchanged; (i) to combine sections on policy GW1 currently divided between pages 41 and 55 (Councillor Kelly against the policy); (j) to delete policy C3 and amend policy C2 to reflect the school's position statement; (k) not to pursue detailed discussion of Parade and Health Centre parking referenced in policy VH2. *Councillor Perry joined the meeting at point (h) above. After completion of voting on the report and a short adjournment Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow further contributions from members of the public.* The Chair of RSG

said he would be sending out a rota for the feedback event on 12th November and encouraged councillors to sign up to support the presentations. The Clerk reminded Steering Group members of the next meeting scheduled for 5th November. Councillor Perry reiterated his view that it was essential that the Neighbourhood Plan proposed a number for new housing (previously agreed at Full Council Min 1385) and that the absence of such a number in the first draft had been commented upon at MBC. The Chair of RSG said that a key question on 10th November would be to ask MBC what evidence supports its view that a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft plan is required. Attendees at the 10th November meeting were agreed as Councillors Buller, Kelly and Perry and the Chair of RSG. *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting.* Councillors agreed that donations be given to the URC and WI in thanks for their support of the evening event on 12th November, the amounts to be in proportion to donations for previous day events.

2. Maidstone Borough Council Update – Verbal Report (JP). Councillor Perry said that he was involved in the programme of MBC Cabinet roadshows that had recently come to Staplehurst. He said the Local Plan and budget were key issues before the Cabinet.
3. Caretaker's Report – no items to report.
4. Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Invitation to AGM 20/11/14. Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend.
5. Defibrillator – Proposal for installation outside the library (BM). Councillor Manning reported that he had held meetings to discuss the installation of a defibrillator at the library. He said an externally mounted one was preferred for ready access 24/7. He advised that SECAMB could provide such a unit free of charge and running costs would be minimal at £10 p.a. Ownership of the unit would remain with SECAMB but assistance was required with arranging and funding installation. Councillors agreed (i) to write to KCC to seek its agreement to mount the unit on the external east wall of the library and (ii) to seek a quote from an electrician for the work.
6. Jubilee Field Grass Cutting – Tender for approval. Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Green, councillors agreed to accept the quotation from the Jubilee Field Management Committee for 2015 grass cutting at Jubilee Field, which they noted remained unchanged from the 2014 level of £950. Councillor Perry abstained.
7. KALC AGM 22/11/14 – (1) Invitation to send representatives (i) two voting (ii) two non-voting (2) Instructions to voting representatives. Councillors agreed that councillors Silkin and Perry should attend as voting representatives and should vote on the motions as they saw fit in the light of the meeting's debates. Councillor Kelly said he would advise his availability to attend as an additional representative.
8. Oliver Road Community Site – Update (RS/PK/SG). Councillor Silkin said he had written to Taylor Wimpey following the site visit and awaited a response. Councillors Silkin, Kelly and Green said they would meet to discuss next steps.
9. Planning & Travellers – Proposed response to DCLG Consultation (TB). Councillor Burnham said he would bring a proposed response to the next meeting of Full Council.
10. Policing in Kent – Consultation by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (for comment). Councillor Ashby volunteered to draft a response to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.
11. Rail Services in Maidstone Borough – Proposed response to MBC (TB). Councillor Burnham said he had responded to MBC's request for comments; he had highlighted that rail services were not helpful for Staplehurst residents seeking to travel to Maidstone. Councillor Green reported that he had met the managing director of Southeastern Trains and thought it would be a good idea to send him a copy of the Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan, which was agreed by councillors.
12. Sainsbury's S106 Money – Proposal to query proposed allocation with MBC (JP/PK). Noting the MBC-Sainsbury's S106 agreement allocated funds for car park resurfacing,

apparently at Bell Lane, councillors agreed to question the use of such funds for maintenance purposes and to ask that they be used for true capital improvement. They agreed to propose the Village Centre car park as beneficiary of such capital expenditure (Councillors Kelly and Buller abstaining).

13. Street Lights – Chairman’s report on Chapel Lane meeting (for noting) <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>. Councillors noted the report of the meeting and the recommendation that the two lights could be retained as long as they remained safe; they also noted that before a decision is taken further information was being sought from KCC Lighting Engineers and a further meeting would be held.
14. Surgery – Report on Parish Council Surgery (PS). Councillor Spearink advised that there were no visitors. Councillors agreed that after the May election it would be appropriate for the then members to review surgery arrangements.
15. Voluntary Action Maidstone – Invitation to AGM 21/11/14. Councillors were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend. Councillors Perry and Spearink advised that they would be attending in other capacities.

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 Copy correspondence between Borough Councillor Perry and KCC was noted. Councillor Spearink advised that there had been incidents of failures of newly introduced replacement buses, which he had followed up. A further meeting with Helen Grant MP is to take place in January.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting? 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
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, SL, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting 04/11/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
8. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Report of meeting 30/09/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller advised that three pages of the Winter Village Update had been written and sent for first proof; the final page would be written after the Neighbourhood Plan feedback event.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting 12/11/14 to coincide with NP Feedback evening. Minutes of meeting 15/10/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting week commencing 17/11/14? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
11. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx.
12. 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 Councillor Kelly reported he had received a proposed budget for churchyard maintenance from the PCC, which would be discussed by Finance Group at its next meeting.
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting? Minutes of meeting 07/10/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting 20/11/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 03/12/14. Minutes of meeting 22/10/14 posted at 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
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) 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
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting 08/12/14.
<http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
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
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? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
19. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: A Staplehurst Primary School governor discussed draft Neighbourhood Plan policies C2 and C3 and referred councillors to the school position statement submitted in 2013 that expressed a preference for expansion on the single current site. It is estimated that the site could accommodate a 50% increase in pupil numbers to 630. Plans cover three-form entry, pre-school and nursery. Sports pitches would be protected. The speaker undertook to send a copy of the submitted statement to the Clerk and said he would be attending the feedback event on 12th November.