

STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 5TH JUNE 2023

Cllr Riordan introduced Inspector Steve Kemp from Kent County Police.

Inspector Kemp outlined that the local model of Policing started in 2015 – eight years later technology and demographics have changed so the new Chief has undertaken a review / consultation with the public and the new Policing model is starting 8th June 2023.

It will consist of five key elements;

1. **Local Beat Police Officers** – the local area is (Staplehurst, Marden, Yalding and Headcorn) Initially 2 Beat Officers are car based between villages but out and about engaging with the public in the villages. Aim to be proactive to try and stop issues developing.
Further 2 Beat Officers come on stream latter this year and will work alternative shifts
2. **Neighbourhood Task Forces** – Mix of Police Officers and PCSO's will be called in to help Beat Officers with issues or challenges as required
3. **Rural Taskforce** – made up of specialist in Rural Crime – nationally growing not just a local issue – again can be called by Beat Officer if issues / challenges arise as required
4. **Child centre police unit**- Focused on working with schools and children to address issues early with parents - again can be called by Beat Officer if issues / challenges arise as required
5. **Prevention Hub** – Office based experts who can support / advise all of the above on a range of issues. Have access to local and national "Models / tools" that have worked elsewhere and can try out in the local area

A key issue under pinning this is communication.

Police recently launched but want to promote widely "My Community Voice" (MCV) is a two-way engagement tool set up by Kent Police for residents, businesses and community groups in Kent and Medway. MCV will enable Kent Police to update users with news, alerts, appeals, engagement events and general policing activities. Members of the public can choose what information they receive from us and how they receive it – whether that's by email, text or voice mail. They can also share or reply to the messages they receive, enabling improved two-way communication, information sharing and problem-solving opportunities for the force.

Emphasis everyone should register

[My Community Voice | Kent Police](#)

Resident questions

1. **There has been a spate of ASB and worse – what have you done about it?**
Police apprehended 4 young people – Community Protection Orders issued – hopefully will reduce and will be keeping under observation.
2. **When will the uplift in Police number occur (9 – 18 for Maidstone area) and 2 – 4 for our area?**
As said aiming for later this year – depends on training by certainly by December 2024 hopefully sooner.

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....

3. How much time in Staplehurst – the local area is a very big area?

Aim if for regular Police presence – if issues / challenges can call in the support so cannot give a specific amount of time. Visits will vary , random times and flexible if uplift in issues.

4. Are the Beat Officers working in pairs?

Yes initially but can be flexible

5. Who else do you work in Partnership with?

We are linking up with KCC Community Wardens, MBC Community Protection Team and South East trains. Very much a partnership approach with meetings twice a month. Also doing our "cluster" meetings quarterly with Parishes and aim to come into the Parish Office on a regular basis

6. It is good to hear – but still too few police?

We would all like more Police Officers but working in partnership and being able to call in support if required means we feel we can do better moving forward.

7. ASB can easily have an edge and can lead to violence?

Yes we understand that, and emphasis not to confront anyone, report via My Community Voice

Cllr Riordan thanked Inspector Kemp for his time and much appreciated update

Public Forum

A resident asked if the Council are going respond to the potential closure of Tovil Tip?

Yes the Council will when the consultation opens and we will promote locally for people to respond

A resident asked about Electric Vehicle Charging points been added to Bell Lane?

Noted and already asked MBC, will chase up

A resident raised concerns about even more cuts to Arriva Bus service?

Noted and Clerk to write to KCC

A resident thanked Cllr Arger for all her hard work arguing the case for Staplehurst in the Maidstone Local Plan hearing. Cllr Arger is a volunteer, and is doing excellently arguing the case for Staplehurst with experts and specialists.

All agreed and support Cllr Arger's work

A resident asked if the Council can congratulate former Cllr Reardon on being made Mayor of Needham Market? (Note letter in correspondence)

A resident raised concerns about Lodge Road area any chance of CCTV and also a pedestrian crossing at the junction with Station approach?

Noted, these already being raised.

Borough Councillor's Report (Standing Item):**Cllr Perry**

As it is a new Council we have reshaped the Cabinet and formed Committees – Cllr Perry and Cllr Riordan on Planning Committee

Local Plan Hearing proceeding and would like to thank Mrs Buller and Cllr Arger for all their hard work and putting forward the case for Staplehurst so well.

Some concern that the developers are "targeting" Staplehurst but mindful that MBC has a Local Plan already, so this should stand us in good stead.

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....

Need to be aware of the financial challenges facing MBC in 2024/25 – much will depend on the government settlement

Clr Riordan

First month as an MBC Councillor very much inductions and a lot to learn but enjoyable. As well as Planning Committee also joined the Housing, Health and Environment Committee – Bin collection team.

Made an application to the Rural Prosperity Fund for the Staplehurst Youth Club / service – see how that goes. Chasing the Parish applications to the Borough wide CIL fund
The residents, Parish, KCC and MBC all worked together to support a homeless man and hopefully a positive outcome.

County Councillor's Report (Standing item): Non attendance

Present: Cllrs Riordan, Hotson, Costa, Sharp, McLaughlin, Arger, Perry, Farragher, Alesi and McPhee

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Eerdeken

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:

2.1. Declarations of Lobbying _ NA

2.2. Changes to the Register of Interests _ NA

2.3. Interests in Items on the Agenda – Cllrs Perry and Alesi regarding item 6.1

2.4. Requests for Dispensation - NA

3. APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES:

Pages 2089 – 2094 2nd May 2023 and Pages 2095 – 2103 of 15th May 2023 available at [Full Council - Staplehurst Parish Council - Staplehurst Parish Council, Staplehurst, Tonbridge \(staplehurst-pc.uk\)](http://Full Council - Staplehurst Parish Council - Staplehurst Parish Council, Staplehurst, Tonbridge (staplehurst-pc.uk)) to be signed by the Chairman

Clr Hotson proposed and Cllr Castro seconded the minutes of the 2nd May 2023 as accurate – agreed majority 7 for, 0 against and 3 abstained as not present

Clr Sharp proposed and Cllr Riordan seconded the minutes of the 15th May 2023 as accurate – agreed majority 8 for, 0 against and 2 abstained as not present

4. FINANCE REPORTS & PROPOSALS

4.1 Payment list

Clr Riordan proposed and Cllr Farragher seconded to approve the payment list below – agreed unanimously

<u>Approved Payments 10th May - 31st May 2023</u>	Amount
Staplehurst Men's Shed - Donation re Village Clean-up	50.00
Homeleigh Timber - Garden Bark Surrenden Field	72.00
J Birkby Plumbing - Youth Club Toilet Repairs	125.00
HMRC - Tax & NI April	1,716.48
Octopus Energy - Youth Club Energy April	72.94
Hartlake Garden Services - Youth Club Disability Ramp	3,930.00

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....

JFMC - 1/2 yr Maintenance Payment	1,500.00
Hugh Harris Ltd t/a Fresh-Air Fitness - SF Gym Equipment 1/2	9,545.40
Kieron Lehane - Camera Removal Wimpey Field	25.00
Payroll & Pension Costs - May	6,789.17
Adobe Systems - Monthly Subscription May-June	19.97
Opus Energy - Surrenden Pavilion Energy May	28.84
Opus Energy - Parish Office Energy May	111.94
Opus Energy - Bell Lane Toilet Energy May	24.78
BT - Broadband & Phone Charges Apr-July	217.55
Telecoms World - Winter Warm Rooms Mobile Phone Line May	11.99
npower - Street Light Energy April	79.68
Lloyds Bank Charges - May	7.00
TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE	24,327.74

TOTAL PETTY CASH EXPENDITURE 16.40

4.2 **Summation and balance sheet** – Noted

Cllr Perry requested clarification on the balance sheet – RFO to discuss with Cllr Perry

4.3 **Contracts list for quarter one**

The Clerk noted that Sage had gone up £1 per month since the contracts list compiled, therefore Sage Account is now £254 per year.

Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Perry seconded to approve the quarter one contract list with the amendment for Sage Account £254 – agreed unanimously

4.4 **Internal Audit Report**

Following a debated which thanked the Internal Auditor for his work and the support of the staff, especially Deborah Jenkins the RFO, Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Arger seconded to approve the Internal Audit Report – agreed unanimously.

4.5 **Allocation of Parish Council Reserves**

Following a debate which highlighted that Finance and Strategy Group have considered and recommend the allocation of reserves Cllr McLaughlin proposed and Cllr Hotson seconded to approve the Council Reserves as circulated – agreed unanimously

Clerk asked should we use S106 funds earmarked for Surrenden Field for the Outdoor Gym – agreed unanimously (RFO will need to request from MBC)

For clarity Council requested a simple summary of projects and various pots of funding allocated to them, i.e. Council Reserves, S106, Grants and CIL

5. **CLERKS REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS – attached**

The Clerk highlighted that the Council agreed a fee of £15 per hour for a cleaner of the Youth Club – this has proved challenging and we now have a cleaner but at £20 per hour.

Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Arger seconded to £20 per hour for a cleaner – agreed unanimously

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....

Cllr Castro requested another water butt for the Greener Staplehurst Group – to be part of the Greener Staplehurst work programme report.

6. PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION and DECISION

6.1 Jubilee Field Management Committee report

Following a debate Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Arger seconded to add an additional motion – for the JFMC to report back with a statement from the SMFC regarding the access by Staplehurst Junior Football Club to the main pitch for the season 2023/24 – agreed unanimously.

Was there a need for the Pavilion to be used as much as a bar? (increased licensing dates) general feeling ok as clubs need to generate income – SMFC to confirm dates to Clerk in advance of usage.

Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Arger seconded the resolutions below – agreed majority 8, for 0 against, and 2 abstained

Resolution: to approve the following

- a) request a key for the main gate for a commercial waste bin contractor, so the skip can be removed.
- b) the SMFC friendlies dates be added to the pavilion licensing dates – Up to 15 Dates July / August 2023 for the Senior men’s team, Under 23 development team and the newly formed Women’s team
 - One hour before a match and 2 hours after a match
- c) the SMFC women’s league and cup matches be added to the pavilion licensing dates (Sunday afternoons)
 - One hour before a match and 2 hours after a match
- d) to consider options for new security doors / shutters to Pavilion and report back
- e) request a Post to support the entrance barrier when opened up and report back with options
- f) Hatched Yellow lines / directional arrows road marking at site entrance up to £200
- g) Three “car park will be locked” signs up to £160
- h) for the JFMC to report back with a statement from the SMFC regarding the access by Staplehurst Junior Football Club to the main pitch for the season 2023/24

6.2 Council Consultations in 2023/24

Following a debate Cllr Arger proposed and Cllr Riordan seconded to approve the resolutions below agreed unanimously

Resolution: To approve the following

- a) Purchase a “business reply licence” - £99
- b) Purchase 10,000 envelopes for consultations in 2023/24, up to £600 for 3 major consultations
- c) Use of Projects budget

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....

6.3 Cranbrook Road survey

Following a debate Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Arger seconded to approve the resolution below agreed unanimously

Resolution: To approve the request of KCC Highways to undertake the necessary surveys to investigate a pedestrian crossing Cranbrook Rd, Staplehurst

6.4 Fitness Classes in Surrenden Field

Following a debate Cllr Sharp proposed and Cllr Perry seconded to approve the resolutions below agreed unanimously

Resolution: To approve the SCENic recommendation that Fitness classes are permissible as long as we have copies of valid Public Liability Insurance / Professional Indemnity Insurance, copies of qualifications and request a donation to go towards the maintenance of Surrenden Field

6.5 Community Payback Team report

Following a debate Cllr Castro requested if other Cllrs could support – Cllrs Alesi and Farragher stepped forward - Cllr Castro proposed and Cllr Riordan seconded to approve the resolutions below agreed unanimously

Resolution: to note the Community Payback Team's work so far as outlined in the report and to approve the following;

- a) the purchase of paint / brushes up to £300
- b) Hire a skip for £340

6.6 Community Engagement Policy Report

Following a debate Cllr Arger proposed and Cllr Riordan seconded to approve the resolution below agreed unanimously

Resolution: to approve the Finance and Strategy Group recommendation to adopt the Community Engagement Policy, attached in Appendix A of this report

6.7 Proposal to paint the Jubilee Field Pavilion

Following a debate Cllr Sharp proposed and Cllr Perry seconded to approve the resolutions below agreed unanimously

Resolution: Proposal to accept an offer from Staplehurst Monarchs FC to clean and paint the pavilion inside and out at no cost to the JFMC or SPC

6.8 Surrenden Field playground markings

Following a debate Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Arger seconded to approve the resolution below agreed unanimously

Resolution: SCENic recommend the appointment of a preferred contractor to refresh the playground markings

7. CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:

Cllr Riordan proposed Cllr Arger seconded to write to the Mayor of Needham Market and congratulate him on his appointment – agreed unanimously

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....

Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Arger seconded to suspend Standing Orders and extend the meeting to 9.45pm – agreed unanimously

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

8.1. Chairman’s Report

As the discussion tonight has should we are chasing the Sainsbury Shuttle Bus, more work on potholes and much more

Felt the recent Councillor workshop went well but we need another one as still some issues to explore.

Also need “articles for the Annual Report” to the Clerk by 16th June 2023

Cllr Sharp highlighted that the sign approaching Hawkenbury bridge has been “knocked down” for some time – asked Clerk to report

Also the FOI on accidents in that area is enlightening

8.2. Committee and working group minutes for noting

8.2.1. Planning Committee minutes of 17th April 2023, and 2nd May 2023.

8.2.2. Road Safety Group 27th April 2023 and 22nd May 2023,

8.2.3. JFMC minutes 4th April 2023 and AGM 23rd May 2023

The Clerk noted that Staplehurst Monarchs FC have requested to meet the Council and the JFMC regarding their future plans – agreed to write to arrange a meeting

8.2.4. SCEnic minutes of meeting 25th May 2023

8.2.5. 3G all-sports pitch working group minutes 16th May 2023

8.2.6. Finance and Strategy Group meeting 25th May 2023

8.2.7. NDP review minutes of meeting 24th May 2023

8.2.8. Greener Staplehurst Group minutes 19th April 2023

8.2.9 Youth Club Group minutes to follow

**9. REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS (written reports for noting)
- No item**

10. URGENT MATTERS NA

11. SPECIAL MOTION & REPORT – NA

Closed 9.43pm

Signed by Chairman.....Date.....