

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 5th October 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

URGENT ITEMS: - No items requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillors Buller and Perry declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors Buller, Burnham and Perry declared they had been lobbied about buses. Councillor Spearink declared he had been lobbied about older people's services. Councillor Burnham declared he had been lobbied about street lighting. Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about planning.

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 Pages 1466-1469 of 21st September 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Ashby, seconded by Councillor Sharp, approved by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan & Developer News

- a) Update from Steering Group re Reg. 16 Plan Consultation & MBC Meeting 01/10/15. *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.* The Chair of RSG reported that on 1st October MBC officers had proposed that the Regulation 18 consultation on the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan should start on 23rd October to run until 4th December. The officers said they would write a report for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee on 10th November; if North Loose representatives are allowed to speak about its plan at a meeting of this committee then Staplehurst Parish Council will be granted the same opportunity. The officers raised minor points about three policies but these points will not inhibit the issue of the plan for consultation. *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting.* Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Gosling, councillors agreed to fund the issue of leaflets to be distributed throughout the parish to promote the consultation. The Chair of RSG will draft the content of the leaflet.
- b) Update on MBC Draft Local Plan – Reg. 18 Consultation 2-30 October 2015. Councillor Burnham agreed to draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council to the October 2015 Reg. 18 draft plan.
- c) Developer News – (i) Redrow Homes Bungalows. Councillors noted that MBC had advised Redrow Homes that it would not be agreeable to a reduction in affordable housing provision to allow bungalows to be built on Fishers Farm. They agreed to take no further action. (ii) Meeting with Countryside Properties. *After Chairman Silkin had closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public* councillors resumed the meeting discussion and, proposed by Councillor Buller and

seconded by Councillor Perry, they agreed that a requested meeting with Countryside Properties to discuss land for a community centre should not take place. The Clerk will advise Countryside Properties.

2. Borough Councillor Update – Councillor Perry said that on 6th October he would be attending a meeting that would address problems on bus services.
3. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk confirmed that the number of reported bags of rubbish collected by the caretaker included the contents of emptied rubbish bins. Councillor Buller asked if the caretaker could pick up small items of debris remaining from the recent collision in High Street. Councillor Spearink said there was graffiti on the petrol station hoarding and asked about painting of memorial benches. The Clerk said that the caretaker undertook painting as necessary and had also recently done the main gate on Surrenden Field and would be attending to the posts at Nicholson Walk.
4. Application for Variation of Premises Licence at 9/11 The Parade (SPAR) – Councillors noted the application without comment.
5. Bell Lane Pond – Correspondence from KCC (to note the position and decide action). Councillors noted that the Parish Office was pursuing an enquiry with Golding Homes about clearance work and pond reinstatement that had formed part of a work proposal to satisfy a planning condition. Councillor Claridge said that he was due to meet KCC representatives in the High Street on 14th October and suggested that a site visit to the Bell Lane pond be arranged at this time. The Clerk will liaise with KCC about the visit. Councillors Silkin and Spearink volunteered to attend.
6. KALC Event – Report of presentations on policing issues and defibrillators. Councillors noted Councillor Manning's report. He advised that he was seeking to ascertain the cost of maintenance of the defibrillator unit to be installed at the library and that he planned to ask outlets at the Parade and High Street to display advisory notices.
7. KCC Consultations - For consideration of Parish Council response
 - a) Street Lighting – LED Lighting; Part-Night and All-Night Lighting. Noted by Councillors who did not wish to submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council.
 - b) Older People's Services – Proposals for Four of Kent's Care Homes. Councillor Spearink undertook to draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council. The proposals will also be discussed with County Councillor Hotson.
 - c) Maidstone Gateway – Discontinuation of Delivery of KCC Services. Councillor Perry said he felt it was difficult to see what savings would accrue from the proposals for the taxpayer. They will be discussed with County Councillor Hotson.
8. Kent Highways – Report of meeting (JR & Clerk). Noted by councillors.
9. Painting of Bus Shelters – Report on work undertaken. Councillor Spearink reported that he had discussed with contractors the work undertaken on the bus shelters. He explained that repainting had been completed to a high standard but the newer powder-coated shelter had not been repainted as the current surface would last longer than conventional paint. Councillors agreed with this course of action and asked the Clerk to liaise with contractors about the final invoice.
10. Parish Surgery – Report (JP & AG). Councillor Perry reported that subjects raised were: solar farms; traffic flows to and from the proposed Redrow development and at the crossroads; the planning application relating to Stanley Farm; Landscapes of Local Value and the successful campaign to retain the special status of the Low Weald. He said that he was now a member of MBC Planning Committee; however, because of his prior involvement in consideration of the Great Pagehurst solar farm application, he planned to speak as a visiting member rather than a committee member when the application came before committee.
11. Remembrance Day Parade & Service – Correspondence from Royal British Legion. Proposed by Councillor Burnham, seconded by Councillor Gosling, councillors agreed

that a wreath should be ordered for the Remembrance Day Parade and Service on 8th November.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 30/10/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
Councillor Burnham reported that there would be a Southeastern stakeholder forum on 12th October. Councillor Buller asked about having a community noticeboard at the station.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 17/09/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, CC, TB, AG, PK, NK, RS, PS,) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx Councillor Buller requested that responsibility for the pond at Parisfield be ascertained.
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, CC, SL, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting?
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink said that he and Councillor Sharp intended to visit the site to inspect its current status.
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Burnham will edit the next issue of the Village Update. Councillors asked that distribution companies identified by Councillor Claridge be approached to provide prices for distribution of the Village Update and Friends of Staplehurst Health Centre Newsletter.
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 07/10/15. Reports of meetings 05/08/15 and 09/09/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
12. Staff Group (JB, PK, SL, BM, JP) Next meeting?
13. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group (TB, AG, SL) Next meeting 08/10/15. Report of meeting 10/09/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx
14. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, PK, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
15. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillor Sharp said that the Group had met last week. Minutes are to be circulated to the next Full Council meeting.
16. 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
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 06/10/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (RS, PK, PB, JP) Next meeting? Report of meeting 30/09/15 awaited. 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 22/10/15. Report of meeting 23/09/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, NK, AS) Next meeting 19/11/15. Report of meeting 24/09/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx

11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting 10/11/15.
<http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 01/09/15 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 Library Users Group (JB, BM) Next meeting?
16. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, AS, RS). Next meeting 14/10/15.
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx .
17. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR)
18. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/07/15 awaited.
19. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (MA, PB) Next meeting?
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
20. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident raised five issues in Bell Lane for attention by the appropriate authority. The Clerk advised that the toilet door would be repaired in the next few days. After the meeting the Chair of SEHT said that an emergency exercise and a meeting would take place later in the month.