

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 4th August 2014 at 7.45 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher and Reardon whose reasons for apology were accepted. Councillor Lain-Rose arrived at the point indicated in the minutes. Councillor Sharp was absent and apologies were received after the meeting.

URGENT ITEMS: - Councillors agreed to take one item of urgent business relating to an application for a street-trading licence.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Buller and Green declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Manning referred to the agenda item for the library surgery and declared he had been lobbied about the library service itself. Councillors Buller and Perry declared they had been lobbied about litter-picking.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in items on the agenda – Councillor Buller referred to the agenda item for the library surgery and declared she was a member of library user group.

Requests for dispensation – none requested.

Councillor Lain-Rose arrived at this point and submitted a written declaration of lobbying and interest relating to both the urgent item and the library service.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1362-1364 of 21st July 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Ashby, approved by councillors nem con, signed by the Chairman and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Urgent Item – *Chairman Perry absented himself from the meeting at this point and Councillor Burnham took the Chair.* The Clerk advised that Maidstone Borough Council had invited the Parish Council to comment on an application for a street-trading licence relating to the proposed sale of seafood by 'The Seafood Stop' in the grounds of the Village Centre at times agreed with the Village Centre Management Committee. Councillors agreed to advise MBC they had no objection to the application. *Chairman Perry returned to the meeting and took the chair.*
2. Neighbourhood Plan – Update & Next Steps. Councillor Buller advised that members of the Rural Settlement Group were providing comments about which areas of the draft plan they felt needed building up. Councillor Kelly said that members of the Village Centre Management Committee would also be adding comments. The Clerk advised that although Kent Highways had opted not to submit formal comments they would be meeting members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on 18th August to discuss their interim views.
3. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk said that the caretaker was doing what he could to keep vegetation down alongside paths. He said he was waiting for MBC to advise what they could offer by way of training to the caretaker.

4. Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2013-2030 - Consultation (for review and response). Councillors noted the consultation but decided not to comment.
5. Library Surgery – Verbal Report (JP & SG). Councillor Green said the surgery had been quiet. Councillor Manning asked about the future of the library and whether KCC viewed it as a community service or a business enterprise. The Clerk stated that service delivery had been discussed at the last meeting with Councillor Hotson who had advised that KCC was moving towards a commissioning approach for delivery of services. The Clerk referred interested parties to the minutes of the KCC Council meeting of 15th May and associated documentation, available on the KCC website, which included discussion of the preferred option of using a trust to operate the library service. Chairman Perry said he would discuss the questions with Councillor Hotson again in their next meeting.
6. Litter Picking – Report on activity in other parishes (Min 1359 refers). Councillors stated how interesting they found the report and suggested it be shared with other parishes. They asked that a letter be sent to MBC to ascertain its policy and practice and requested investigation of insurance aspects of covering extended litter-picking and of the potential to secure resources from community payback schemes.
7. Maidstone Borough Council Update – Verbal Report (JP). Chairman Perry said that he attached much importance to bringing more clarity and completeness to the Parish Charter. Councillor Green asked that the Parish Council Chairman's position be tabled for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
8. Weald Rural Activities Project – Correspondence relating to funding (for decision). Councillors noted the letter from WRAP dated 2nd July but did not feel it appropriate to make a donation because the project's activities focused on other parishes and there were already channels for provision of youth services in Staplehurst.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 19/09/14 (AGM). http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting? Minutes of meetings 19/06/14 and 24/04/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx Councillor Silkin said an exercise would take place in September and he appealed for volunteers to play the roles of victims.
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, JP, PS) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx Councillor Ashby reported on the MBC training session she had attended with Councillor Buller, which she said had provided a useful update on enforcement and on policies relating to Section 106 payments and the future Community Infrastructure Levy.
4. Allotments Project Group (JP, 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 11/08/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx Chairman Perry said a meeting of the Group would be held on 11th August at 7.00pm.
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting 28/08/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx Councillor Buller said she had visited Play Scheme one morning, intended to visit again and invited others to do so. There were over twenty children on the morning and it is hoped that, as in previous years, the number increases as the scheme goes on.
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Report of meetings 25/03/14 and 15/07/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller thanked councillors for their contributions to the next copy of the Village Update.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting 13/08/14. Report of meeting 16/07/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

11. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Update on actions relating to signage and vegetation (Mins 1363-64). Councillor Kelly asked the Group to take and share photographs of locations where signage and overgrowth issues are identified. The Group was asked to consider and report back its views on the proposals for sponsorship of some planters by the Staplehurst Society.
12. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx. Councillor Lain-Rose reported that the club would be closed during August, reopening on 2nd September.

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? Minutes of meeting 03/06/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting? Minutes of meetings 26/06/14 and 27/03/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 07/08/14. 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 24/09/14. Minutes of meeting 17/07/14 posted at 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 21/08/14. Minutes of meeting 27/05/14 awaited http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting? Minutes of meeting 08/07/14 posted at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Spearink advised that the date of the beer festival at Sobell Lodge was now 23rd August.
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?
18. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting? Reports of meetings 15/04/14 and 13/05/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
19. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx. Councillor Kelly reported that sections of tarmac had been repaired and a new wooden fence put in place.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: It was reported that Cerys Cook, a determined eleven year old who has myotonic dystrophy, would attempt to walk one mile around Staplehurst cricket ground in Frittenden Road on Thursday 7th August at 6.30pm to raise funds for and awareness of the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

PARISH COUNCILLOR SURGERY: Councillor Gosling to attend on 30th August at the library.