

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 8.15 p.m.

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Ashby, Butcher, Kelly, Reardon and Sharp whose reasons for apology were accepted.

**URGENT ITEMS:** - No items were requested.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:**

Lobbying – Councillors Buller and Perry declared they had been lobbied about flooding. Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan, buses and Golding Homes.

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 1327-1329 of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Kemp, approved by councillors nem con, signed by Chairman Perry and made available at [http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCES**

1. Summation of Accounts to 7<sup>th</sup> February was noted and posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).
2. Accounts for payment for approval - Proposed by Councillor Burnham, seconded by Councillor Kemp, the list of accounts for payment was approved nem con.
3. Subscription Renewal – Journal of Local Planning (for approval). Proposed by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, the subscription renewal at £50 was approved nem con.
4. Surrenden Playing Field – Tree Work - quotes for review/approval. Proposed by Councillor Burnham, seconded by Councillor Green, councillors approved the quotation from SRFC Ltd for work on the Crowther Close hedge at a cost of £2,085 to be undertaken before the end of March, ideally before the end of February.

**CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-**

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Councillors noted that post-consultation event questionnaires were being returned slowly and agreed to extend publicity to encourage responses. They noted Feria-Urbanism had capacity to support the PC in its response to MBC's forthcoming draft local plan consultation and agreed in principle to their engagement. Councillors agreed that Councillors Buller, Burnham and Kemp and the Chair of RSG be nominated to attend a meeting organised by Coxheath PC on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Councillors accepted the offer from the Chair of RSG to attend MBC Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings on 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. The Clerk advised that the date of the next Neighbourhood Plan consultation event would be 13<sup>th</sup> March followed by a weekend exhibition on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March.
2. Caretaker's Report – no items to report.

3. Churchyard Agreement – Councillors agreed that Chairman Perry advise the Rector that the Parish Council would consider the Churchyard Agreement as extended for the final time until the end of March.
4. Flooding – KCC Update Report on Christmas/New Year (for noting). Councillors noted the report. Chairman Perry said that he and Councillor Kemp had attended a very useful meeting of the Beult CIG and Councillor Kemp was due to attend a meeting in Yalding on 18<sup>th</sup> February about flooding issues.
5. Golding Homes – Correspondence re Emergencies. Noted by councillors.
6. Kent Community Alcohol Project - Proposal for 'village leaflets'. Noted without comment by councillors.
7. Library Surgery – Report (SG/PS). Completion of Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires was encouraged.
8. Local Bus Service – Report of Meeting with MP (JP/BM/PS). Councillor Spearink advised that a meeting had been held with Helen Grant and that a letter was being prepared for her to facilitate a meeting of interested parties.
9. Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places – Notice from MBC. Councillors noted that the review proposed no changes for Staplehurst.
10. WW1 Centenary - Commemoration Proposal Update (JP/PS/PB). Councillor Spearink advised that plans were awaited from the architects.

#### **COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS** – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 07/02/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst\\_transport.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx) Councillor Burnham said he had submitted comments on the Southeastern Trains London Bridge timetable consultation.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 24/02/14. Report of meeting 19/12/13 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc\\_emergency\\_planning\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx) Councillor Silkin reported that a community shelter had been opened on 15<sup>th</sup> February following power cuts in the Headcorn Road area.
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, JP, PS) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx)
4. Allotments Project Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, BM) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx)
5. Strategy & Policy Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SL, SG, RS) Next meeting 21/02/14. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx)
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx)
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting 20/02/14 [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth\\_activities\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx)
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity\\_website.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx) Councillor Buller said the Village Update would be distributed in the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> February and asked for additional volunteers.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Next meeting 12/03/14. Report of meeting 12/02/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](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. UpRockin 2014 (JP, PB) Next meeting?
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx). Councillor Buller said that paperwork had been completed for the Village Clean-Up on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and asked that village groups be specifically contacted to encourage participation.

#### **REPORTS FOR NOTING** from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_carnival\\_fete\\_committee.aspx](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx)
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 04/03/14. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn\\_aerodrome.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx)
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee\\_fields\\_users\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx)

5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Minutes of meeting 18/11/13 and report of AGM 23/11/13 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent\\_association\\_of\\_local\\_councils.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx)
6. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) Next meeting? Report of meeting 04/09/13 awaited.
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 20/03/14. Report of meeting 16/01/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe\\_day\\_centre.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx)
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, PS) Next meeting 20/02/14. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK) Next meeting?
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 04/03/14. <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, PS) Report of meeting 22/01/14 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient\\_participation\\_group\\_at\\_health\\_centre.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx)
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting AGM 25/02/14. Minutes of meeting 12/11/13 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_trust.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx)
18. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot\\_hers.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx)
19. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx)

Chairman.....

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Before the meeting a resident spoke about potholes in Bell Lane, which being in the unadopted section were not the responsibility of Kent Highways. After the meeting a resident spoke about potholes on the A229 near Huntsman's Stables; the Kent Highways website map shows that they have been reported. A resident said that it had not proved possible for two people to complete the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire from the same computer; this issue has just been identified and will be addressed. The short term solution is to find another device or complete a paper version (available from the library or Parish Office); it was suggested that clearing cookies may help.