

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 7th September 2015 at 7.45 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Claridge, Lain-Rose, Perry and Reardon whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: Councillors agreed to take one item of urgent business in relation to Her Majesty the Queen becoming the UK's longest serving monarch.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan, Play Scheme and Speedwatch.

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 1459-1461 of 17th August 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Manning, approved by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Councillors Ashby, Burnham and Sharp abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Urgent Item – Councillor Gosling suggested that the Parish Council write a letter of congratulation to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her becoming the longest serving UK monarch. Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Manning, councillors voted to send such a letter (Councillor Kemp abstaining).
2. Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan & Developer News
 - a) Update from Steering Group re Reg. 16 Plan. Councillor Buller reported that following some minor changes by Fera an updated copy of the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan was to be submitted to MBC for Regulation 16 consultation. She advised that there was a new primary point of contact at MBC for Neighbourhood Plan matters.
 - b) Update on MBC Draft Local Plan. Chairman Silkin and Councillor Buller commented that on 8th September the MBC Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee would be meeting; its agenda would include discussion of proposals for recognising Landscapes of Local Value but they would exclude the Low Weald. It was hoped that Staplehurst's ward borough councillors would be attending and support would be welcomed.
 - c) Developer News – Redrow Homes: Chairman Silkin commented that on 20th August a positive meeting had been held by councillors and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group with Redrow Homes; councillors noted the Clerk's report of the meeting and that a public exhibition and consultation would be held on 10th September.
3. Borough Councillor Update (JP) – Deferred due to the absence of Borough Councillor Perry on borough council business.
4. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk advised that newly purchased litter bins for Jubilee Field had arrived and would be installed by the caretaker.

5. Certificated Camp Site – Correspondence relating to Land behind 'Petersfield'. Councillors discussed the application to set up a certificated camp site on land at Petersfield, Maidstone Road, which was under consideration by the Camping and Caravanning Club. They noted that applications meeting the required criteria do not need local authority planning permission. Councillor Kemp discussed his experience of a certificated site in Yalding and suggested commenting to the Club that a reasonable last arrival time should be established for users of the site; councillors agreed to submit the comment to the Camping and Caravanning Club.
6. Consultation – KCC Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2013-30. Councillors Burnham and Kelly commented that the proposals did not appear to impact on Staplehurst. The consultation was noted by Councillors.
7. Parish Council Insurance – Policy Renewal (for decision). The Clerk explained that the offered renewal premium of £4,364.81 for the final year of the current three-year term agreement could be reduced by 5% to £4,146.57 if the Parish Council were to commit to a further three year term to 2018. Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Kelly, councillors voted to accept the reduced quotation and a new three year agreement.
8. Parish Council Meetings 2016 – Proposed Dates (for approval). Councillors voted to accept the proposed meeting dates for 2016, which followed the current cycle of meeting on the first and third Monday each month (bank holidays excepted). The Clerk will book the venue and publish the dates.
9. Parish Surgery – Report on issues raised 29/08/15. Chairman Silkin commented that a resident had asked about affordable homes for local people on the Saxon Mead development. Councillor Buller said that the forthcoming issue of the Village Update would carry information on this subject and that Golding Homes were keen to see local people come forward for their properties. Chairman Silkin said that the Strategy & Policy Group would consider a question about amplification of meetings.
10. Sobell Lodge – Correspondence arising from visit of Helen Grant MP. Councillor Spearink reported that Helen Grant's office had asked for information about responsibility for footway areas at the Parade. The Clerk agreed to respond.
11. Speedwatch – Proposal to purchase new equipment (for decision). Councillor Buller said that the battery used by the Speedwatch team had long exceeded its expected life and that performance issues meant a new one was required. Additional support for the equipment was also recommended to provide stability for measuring speeds. Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Kelly, councillors agreed to spend £115 on a new battery and £25 on a new support leg, plus VAT and carriage. Councillor Kemp abstained.
12. Young Persons Travel Pass – Correspondence from KCC (for noting). Councillors noted the response of the KCC Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to the Clerk's letter about the Young Person's Travel Pass and that there was provision for KCC to increase the cost each year by up to 5%.

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
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 17/09/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx Chairman Silkin said that he had received an enquiry from the Rector of All Saints Church about refugee policy, which would be addressed by the Emergency Help Team.
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 advised that on 4th September a mobile home had blocked Frittenden Road when manoeuvring onto land adjacent to 'Blossom'. Councillors agreed to pursue Chairman Silkin's suggestion that an

officer from MBC be invited to speak to councillors about gypsy and traveller issues. Councillor Kemp recommended all councillors read the DCLG Planning Policy for Traveller Sites publication dated August 2015.

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 09/09/15.
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS)
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Report of meeting 21/08/15. Invoice for balance of hire charge and cleaning. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx Councillors noted the report of the review meeting held with Play Place on 21st August. Councillor Buller commented that whilst final figures were awaited, attendance numbers appeared lower than last year. Councillors noted that additional cleaning of the Guide Centre had been required at the end of the play scheme and that the cleaning charge was £70 in addition to the agreed hire charge balance of £500.
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller advised that the Autumn Village Update would be distributed from 14th September and said that additional offers of help to deliver copies would be welcome.
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 09/09/15. Report of meeting 05/08/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
12. Staff Group (JB, PK, SL, BM, JP)
13. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group (TB, AG, SL) Next meeting 10/09/15.
14. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, PK, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Burnham said he was pleased that the Ark Springer had been fixed.
15. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillor Kelly advised that the door of the men's toilet at Bell Lane had been vandalised on 30th August. The Clerk confirmed that a police report had been submitted.
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 30/09/15. 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 AGM 23/09/15. 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? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting? <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)

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? Report of meetings 11/11/14, 03/12/14, 06/01/15 and 24/02/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
20. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident spoke about MBC's proposed exclusion of the Low Weald from the Landscapes of Local Value in the draft Local Plan, criticised inconsistencies and lack of clarity in the proposal and urged the Parish Council to oppose it.