

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 3rd August 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Perry and Reardon whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: None requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan, buses, planning issues and library issues. Councillor Gosling declared she had been lobbied about the primary school.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interest in Items on the Agenda – Councillor Kelly declared an interest in repainting of planters.

Requests for Dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1451-1454 of 20th July 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Sharp, approved by Councillors (Councillor Kelly abstaining), 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

- a) Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan Reg. 16 Version (for approval). *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.* The Chair of the Rural Settlement Group commented that a decision by the Parish Council to submit the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 16 Consultation would be a landmark. He believed it was important to proceed with submission of the document to MBC based on the current known certainties. Thereafter management of the consultation would be in MBC's hands. Chairman Silkin thanked the Chair of RSG for his and the Group's contribution to development of the Neighbourhood Plan. In response to a question from Councillor Spearink the Clerk reported that gross expenditure to date on the Neighbourhood Plan, including the Feria invoice under item 1(b), was just over £30,800 and net expenditure after grants of £9,500 was just over £21,300. He advised that Feria's fees for the final stage would be £3,900 plus expenses. The Chair of RSG commented that the expenditure should be seen in the context of not only the time and activity involved in developing the plan but also the long-term nature of the plan itself. He also stated that he believed Feria had provided much support over and above the contracted and charged activity. *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting.* Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Manning, Councillors voted to submit the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan to MBC for Regulation 16 consultation. Councillors Kelly and Spearink abstained.
- b) Stage Payment to Feria Urbanism (for approval). Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Burnham, councillors agreed to pay the contracted stage payment of £4,750 plus expenses to Feria Urbanism (Councillor Spearink against).
- c) Update on MBC Draft Local Plan – Review of Sites by MBC Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee. Councillors Buller and Kemp reported on the MBC committee meeting which had voted to include 60 homes at Land North

of Henhurst Farm in the MBC Draft Local Plan for Regulation 18 consultation. The committee had voted to exclude Land South of Marden Road (120 homes) and Lodge Road (60 homes). The committee had voted to maintain an affordable housing level of 40% for new qualifying rural developments. Councillors Buller and Kemp said Staplehurst's ward councillors had spoken vigorously against the additional sites.

- d) Developer Meetings – (i) Report on meeting with Taylor Wimpey: the Clerk's report of the meeting was noted. Councillor Spearink advised that he and Borough Councillor Brice had accompanied Taylor Wimpey's representative to inspect a tree on the green space area that required urgent attention. Councillor Kelly advised that Borough Councillor Brice was liaising with Kent Highways to ensure coordination of highways contributions from different developers. Councillor Burnham said that the Surrenden Playing Field Group would draw up a list of expenditure items to which the Taylor Wimpey Section 106 contribution could be allocated. Councillor Kemp advised that information emerging from work on the Staplehurst Surface Water Management Strategy was providing interesting information about the direction of water flows. (ii) Forthcoming meeting with Redrow Homes: Chairman Silkin advised that a meeting was to be fixed with Redrow Homes to discuss its proposals for Fishers Farm. Councillors agreed that this could take place on the morning of 20th August and noted that Redrow Homes would be holding a public consultation event on 10th September in the Village Centre.
2. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk reported that some plumbing work was required in the Surrenden Field Pavilion.
 3. Litter Bins for Jubilee Field – Proposed acquisition (for approval). Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Sharp, councillors voted nem con to purchase two post-mounted litter bins for Jubilee Field at a cost of £129.98.
 4. Parish Surgery – (i) Report on issues raised. Councillor Ashby reported that a resident had complained about vegetation in Nicholson Walk, which Councillor Perry had taken up with MBC. She advised that another resident had complained about the Parish Council not supporting solar farm proposals. (ii) Representative for future dates: 29th August Chairman Silkin; 26th September Councillor Gosling; 31st October Councillor Spearink.
 5. Planter Painting – Report (for decision). Councillors noted that all planters were now painted cream and no further action was required.
 6. Primary School – Correspondence re S106 Funding (for noting). Councillors noted the letter dated 21st July received from the Headteacher and Chair of Governors, which set out the Governing Body's acceptance of KCC's allocation of S106 funding from Staplehurst housing developments to Headcorn School. Chairman Silkin said that he believed it was nevertheless important for the Parish Council to press for future planning contributions to be made available to Staplehurst. He hoped that a meeting could be held with the S106 Officer at Kent County Council.
 7. Weald of Kent Protection Society – Membership Information (for decision). The Clerk read information received from the Society which clarified that it did not intend that Staplehurst Parish Council become a member of the Society, but rather that it hoped the Parish Council could provide one or two contacts to act as the Society's village representatives. Councillors agreed that the new information should be initially discussed by the RSG before further consideration by Full Council.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 18/09/15. 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

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 reported that a resident had commented that developers should provide parking for their site workers.
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)
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS)
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx Councillor Buller advised that Playscheme's open morning had taken place that day. She invited councillors to visit during the three weeks of the scheme.
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Burnham reported that the next issue of the Village Update was being prepared and copy needed to be submitted to Councillor Buller.
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 05/08/15. Report of meeting 08/07/15 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 06/08/15. Councillor Lain-Rose's report of the meeting of 16/07/15 was noted. Councillor Lain-Rose reported that the Parish Office had provided him with information about funding opportunities and comments about the Village Centre made during development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
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.
16. Youth Club (PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx Councillor Kelly asked whether the Parish Council would be receptive to considering a proposal for enhancement of the Youth Club site. Chairman Silkin responded that Council would be prepared without commitment to consider a proposal.

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? 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. Report of meeting 16/07/15 posted at 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 20/08/15? 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 01/09/15. Report of meeting 02/06/15 awaited. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
13. Speed Watch (JB) <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx> Councillor Buller reported that the Speedwatch team would determine whether it needed to spend more money on equipment following the session on 4th August.

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? Councillor Kemp gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 27/07/15. He said KCC funding of the project was making a real difference and much useful information was emerging. He reported that in September ditches in Clapper Lane would be redug.
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 at 7.15pm Mr Matt Blythin of DHA Planning and Mr Roy Morgan discussed proposals to build 10 houses at Woodford Farm, Maidstone Road, and took questions from councillors and members of the public. Mr Blythin and Mr Morgan explained that a planning application had just been submitted to MBC. Permission is already in place for a large replacement commercial building but the existing business could use more space. Copies of the submitted plans were shared with councillors. Mr Blythin highlighted that there would be a pedestrian footpath leading to the bus stop to the north. Use would be made of the existing sewage pipeline. A SuDS strategy would be used for surface water management.

No other issues were raised.