

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 19th October 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Claridge, Kelly and Kemp whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - No items requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillors Buller, Burnham and Perry declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors Buller and Perry declared they had been lobbied about buses. Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about Village Updates.

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 1470-1473 of 5th October 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Sharp, seconded by Councillor Gosling, approved by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Councillors Lain-Rose and Reardon abstained.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

1. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Manning, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, the list of accounts for payment was approved.
2. Summation of Accounts to 9 October 2015 (for noting). Noted by councillors and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.
3. Quotations for Distribution of Village Updates – Councillors voted by majority to try new delivery arrangements for the Village Update in November (Councillor Manning against, Councillor Buller abstaining). Councillors then voted by majority to accept a quotation of £380 from Leafleteers Ltd to deliver the Village Update and Friends of Staplehurst Health Centre Newsletter to addresses throughout the parish (Councillors Manning & Buller abstaining).
4. Hedge Maintenance at Surrenden & Jubilee Fields – Quotations for decision. Proposed by Councillor Reardon, seconded by Councillor Manning, councillors voted to accept a quotation of £2,634 incl. VAT from Forestry First Ltd for annual hedge-cutting works. Councillors requested that the Clerk ask the company if it would be prepared to enter a fixed price agreement and commit to the same price for two further years.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan & Local Plan
 - a) Update from Steering Group re Neighbourhood Plan Reg. 16 Consultation. Councillors noted that the six-week Regulation 16 consultation period for the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan would commence on 23rd October. They agreed that an information event would be held on Wednesday 18th November. Councillor Perry said he felt that the plan had reached a significant stage and that the MBC Planning Officers would have only minor points to raise in their report to Strategic

Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee on 10th November. He said he would ascertain whether a representative of SPC would be entitled to speak at the Committee meeting.

- b) MBC Draft Local Plan – SPC Response to Reg. 18 Consultation. Councillors discussed the draft response prepared by Councillor Burnham, which was agreed subject to minor amendments and inclusion of a clearer definition of the Low Weald area and additional references to the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors thanked Councillor Burnham for an excellent piece of work. Councillor Burnham will send a final version to the Clerk.
2. Borough Councillor Update – Councillor Perry observed that a formal response was expected from KCC to the Regulation 18 Draft Plan which was currently in a four week consultation period expiring on 30th October.
3. Caretaker’s Report – The Clerk advised that the caretaker had treated the wooden posts at the Nicholson Walk gate and had cleared up some remaining debris from the road traffic accident in the High Street.
4. Consultations
 - a) Extension of 30mph limit in Marden Road – KCC consultation on proposed Traffic Regulation Order. Councillors expressed support for the proposed extension of the 30mph limit as set out in Amendment No.13 Order 2015. Noting that the proposed new roundabout had formed part of the Hen & Duckhurst planning application and was not part of the Traffic Regulation Order, they nevertheless requested more details about this aspect.
 - b) Reforming the Powers of Police Staff and Volunteers – Home Office. Councillors agreed not to comment as a parish council and noted that individuals were free to respond.
 - c) National Improvement Strategy for Parish and Town Councils – NALC. Chairman Silkin undertook to draft a response to NALC’s questionnaire which had been circulated by the Kent Association of Local Councils.
 - d) MBC-Parishes Partnership: Terms of reference for Task and Finish Group – KALC Area Committee. Councillor Perry explained that the Group, comprising representatives of MBC, KALC Area Committee and parish councils, would be responsible for taking forward the Parish Charter and that he would be a member. Noted without further comment by Councillors.
 - e) KALC Area Committee Comments on MBC Economic Development Strategy – KALC Area Committee. Noted without further comment by Councillors.
5. County Council Issues – Report on meeting with Cllr Hotson. Councillors noted that the meeting had covered a range of issues including the bus service, housing development proposals and the local and neighbourhood plans.
6. Defibrillator Installation – Update, including discussion of maintenance costs. Further to the Parish Council’s assumption of responsibility for maintenance (Min 1451) Councillor Manning provided more information about costs of spares and timing of replacements: AED £599, seven years; pads £35, annually; patients’ rescue kit £50, after use; battery £150, every four to five years. It was agreed that the equipment be recorded on the Parish Council’s register of assets. Councillor Manning said he was prepared to undertake required regular checks of the equipment. Chairman Silkin asked that the subject be discussed by the Emergency Help team at its next meeting with a view to drawing up a set of check documentation. Councillors thanked Councillor Manning for all his work on the project.
7. Invitations
 - a) Action for Communities in Rural Kent – Annual Meeting 10/11/15. No councillor was available to attend the event.

- b) Kent County Playing Fields Association – Annual Council Meeting 30/10/15. No councillor was available to attend the event.
- c) Kent Association of Local Councils – AGM 21/11/15 (for decision, including nomination of representatives). Councillor Perry said he would attend the meeting. Chairman Silkin undertook to advise his availability to the Clerk.
8. Superfast Broadband Roll-out in Maidstone & the Weald – Correspondence. Noted by councillors.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 30/10/15. Report of Bus Services Committee meeting dated 06/10/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 21/10/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx A table-top exercise took place on 17/10/15.
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, CC, TB, AG, PK, NK, RS, PS,) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx
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 23/10/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting? Maidstone Destination Management Plan – Report. Councillor Spearink reported that he would be part of the Countryside working group and was awaiting the date of its first meeting.
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink reported that he, Councillor Buller, Councillor Burnham and three residents had undertaken a walking tour of the site. The Group will draw up a list of tasks and required equipment. He said that a further meeting with Taylor Wimpey would be useful to check on progress towards achieving handover status.
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx The Clerk confirmed that copies of parent feedback forms had been received. Councillors Buller, Burnham and the Clerk will meet to review them and other matters arising from this year's 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 requested that copy for the next Village Update be sent to him as soon as possible.
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 04/11/15. Reports of meetings 09/09/15 and 07/10/15 awaited. Report of meeting 05/08/15 posted at 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 12/11/15. Report of meeting 10/09/15 posted at 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? Report of meeting 30/09/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillor Sharp asked that questions raised by the Group be discussed at the next meeting of Council.
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 08/03/16. Report of meeting 09/06/15 posted at 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? Report of meeting 14/10/15 awaited. 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/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident said that a guard-rail should be placed at the end of the footpath leading from the Health Centre past the Library to the High Street. A resident asked whether there had been any further investigations into the cause of the recent road accident in High Street. County Councillor Hotson spoke about several issues: he would consider a formal request for a guard-rail in the High Street; KCC did not endorse MBC's objectively assessed housing need figure of over 18,000 homes; he believed the current MBC consultation on its Reg.18 draft plan should be six weeks and not four; there were concerns about the extent of water management improvements needed for Staplehurst, Headcorn and Marden if new development was to be accommodated. Two representatives from Woodland House discussed their work and described the different types of therapy provided to the adolescents, some of whom were residential and some day-patients. They said they would be interested to receive ideas about community activities in which patients could engage. Councillors Perry and Spearink said they would welcome a further discussion about this. Mr Robin Kenworthy said he would be happy to discuss the needs of young people in the context of the developing framework under the Healthy Living Pharmacy project.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Gardner's report showed three crimes: one attempted burglary; one burglary; one criminal damage.