

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.25 p.m.

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

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

**URGENT ITEMS:** - There were no urgent items.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS** regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan, Village Clean-Up and delivery of the Village Update.

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** Minute pages 1504-1506 of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 were proposed for approval by Councillor Sharp, seconded by Councillor Ashby, APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin 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. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Perry, the list of accounts for payment was APPROVED. Payments for the period 9 January to 5 February totalled £7,048.13; receipts for the period were £44.78 (Parish Council) and £0.64 (Village Centre Contingency Account).
2. Summation of Accounts to 8 January 2016. NOTED by councillors and published at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).
3. Portable Electrical Appliance Testing – Invitation from Inspection Services to renew contract – recommendation to agree five year fixed price option (for decision). Proposed by Councillor Buller, seconded by Councillor Gosling, Councillors AGREED to accept the quotation of £1.51 per test (excluding VAT) for a five year contract.
4. Transport Accessibility Group Annual Subscription – Minimum amount = £15; Budgeted amount = £25 (for decision). Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Buller, Councillors AGREED to pay £25 by way of annual subscription.

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

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Verbal Update on Examination Status. Councillor Buller reported that representatives of the Steering Group had met MBC officers on 9<sup>th</sup> February and that clarification was awaited about the Examiner's requirements.
2. Bell Lane Nature Reserve – Request from MBC to contribute towards tree and hedge work (for decision). Councillors DEFERRED any decision on MBC's invitation to contribute towards the £576 cost of proposed work at the Nature Reserve pending receipt of further information from Councillor Perry who said he would enquire about MBC's intentions about the site's future ownership.
3. Borough Council Report – Councillor Perry reported that Sainsbury's planned to open a local store in Coxheath. He said MBC Planning Committee had refused planning application 13/1456 for a solar farm at Great Pagehurst Farm and that a representation made by Helen Grant MP about the planning officer's report appeared to carry significant

weight; he thanked Councillor Buller for speaking on behalf of SPC. He said that on 11<sup>th</sup> February a public meeting to discuss the MBC Local Plan had attracted a large turnout and concluded with a resolution that MBC should relook at its housing target.

4. Caretaker's Report – no items to report.
5. Consultation – Maidstone Borough Local Plan and Integrated Transport Strategy – Closing Date 18<sup>th</sup> March (for comment) [www.maidstone.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/localplan). Councillors AGREED: Councillor Burnham to draft a response for the Chairman's signature on behalf of SPC with specific input from Councillor Claridge (roads), Councillor Buller (Neighbourhood Plan) and Councillor Perry (key headings); a draft to be discussed at the Full Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March, a date which would be promoted along with the surgery on 27<sup>th</sup> February as an opportunity for residents to discuss the consultation.
6. KALC Membership & Training Survey – For comment and decision on response (by 31<sup>st</sup> March). Chairman Silkin asked councillors to provide him with any comments they had about KALC membership and training (required by 11<sup>th</sup> March).
7. Parish Surgery – Discussion of format and frequency (Min 1505). Councillors AGREED, on a trial basis for six months and subject to agreement from the library, to hold parish surgeries every week rather than every month with effect from the start of March. They AGREED representatives at the initial surgeries would be: 5<sup>th</sup> March Councillor Sharp; 12<sup>th</sup> March Councillor Spearink; 19<sup>th</sup> March Councillor Ashby; 26<sup>th</sup> March Chairman Silkin. They AGREED the duration would be for one hour from 10.00am, with the exception of the two hour joint surgery with Borough Councillors. They AGREED that after the joint surgery scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> February the next joint surgery would be on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and subsequent joint surgeries would be on the first Saturday each month.
8. Village Clean-Up – Arrangements for 12<sup>th</sup> March (JB & TB). Councillors Buller and Burnham reported that arrangements were in hand for the Clean-Up which would commence at 10.00am on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at the Youth Club. Councillor Buller reported that the WI had agreed to provide refreshments.
9. Youth Council – Discussion of options (Min 1506). Councillor Lain-Rose undertook to find out information about the workings of the Maidstone Youth Forum and KCC's Youth Council.

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

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 15/04/16. Minutes of meeting 12/02/16 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst\\_transport.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx). Councillor Spearink advised that Borough Councillor Brice was regularly engaged in meetings and bus issues.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 23/03/16. Report of meeting 20/01/16 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc\\_emergency\\_planning\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx)
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, CC, TB, AG, PK, RS, 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 (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, CC, SL, RS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx)
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SL, JR) Next meeting 29/04/16. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx).
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting?
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting?
9. Playscheme (TB, JB) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth\\_activities\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx)
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, SL, JR) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity\\_website.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx)
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, TB, AS) Next meeting 09/03/16. Reports of meetings 04/11/15 and 03/02/16 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx). Councillor Buller said that the Group had requested SPC to meet again with Civics to discuss land at Lodge Road. Councillors AGREED that further meetings should await advancement of the Neighbourhood Plan.
12. Staff Group (JB, PK, SL, BM, JP) Next meeting?

13. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group (TB, AG, SL) Next meeting 25/02/16.  
[http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_redevelopment\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx). Councillor Lain-Rose reported: the Group had visited Headcorn Village Hall; following survey of Staplehurst Village Centre the surveyor's invoice was awaited; the next meeting would be held on 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Village Centre.
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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx).
16. Youth Club (PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](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](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 08/03/16.  
[http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn\\_aerodrome.aspx](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx)
5. KALC Area Committee (RS, PK, PB, JP) Next meeting 24/02/16.  
[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?
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting? Reports of meetings 23/09/15 and 22/10/15 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, BM, AS) Next meeting 18/02/16. Report of meeting 24/09/15 awaited.  
[http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, PS) Next meeting 03/03/16.  
<http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 01/03/16. Report of meeting 01/12/15 posted at  
<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](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 (PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/07/15 awaited.
19. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (MA, RS) Next meeting?  
[http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_trust.aspx](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 representatives of the East Kent Schoolboy Scramble Club (EKSSC) discussed plans for a charity weekend event at Duckhurst Farm in May, which would be one of four events the club wished to hold in Staplehurst during 2016. It was explained that SPC had no jurisdiction over such organised events but it had acted as intermediary between EKSSC and local residents when local concerns had arisen and for the sharing of information; the Clerk said the Parish Office had asked the club for details of all proposed Staplehurst dates for 2016. Mr Andrew Watson said that he and local historian Anita Thompson would be giving a talk about 'Absolute Rural Horror' on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February in the United Reformed Church. Ms Yasmin Gordine introduced herself as the

Parish Liaison Officer at MBC. She said she would be working with 41 parishes. She envisaged much of her work would be focused on the areas of economic development, planning/environmental protection and leisure, but she would make herself available to help out on any issues. After the meeting the Staplehurst community warden explained that she had secured funding for refurbishing the Youth Club and was looking at further funds for a 'Men's Shed' project (to be discussed at the next SPC meeting).

**POLICE REPORT:** PCSO Gardner's report showed five crimes: two burglaries (other than dwelling); one theft from motor vehicle; one theft; one attempted burglary.