

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 2nd February 2015 at 7.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Burnham, Green, Kelly, Kemp, Lain-Rose, Manning, Perry (from the point indicated in the minutes due to borough council business), Spearink and Silkin who was in the Chair.

Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

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

URGENT ITEMS: - none requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors Ashby, Buller and Burnham declared they had been lobbied about the library.

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 1406-1409 of 19th January 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Kemp, approved by councillors, signed by the Chairman and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Councillor Lain-Rose abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan & MBC Local Plan – Report from Steering Group. *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.* Thanks were expressed to councillors who had attended the sittings of MBC's Scrutiny Committee for its review of potential housing site allocations. A comment was made that additional housing would create capacity issues for the school. It was suggested that mains water provision as well as sewage strategy needed to be reviewed. *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting.* Councillors noted the report of meetings held with Kent Highways and Network Rail, both of which were encouraging. The Clerk confirmed that follow-up letters had been sent to the two parties.
2. Caretaker's Report – no items to report.
3. Community Volunteering Initiative – Invitation from Oakwood Park Grammar School. Councillors were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to submit any proposals to the school for volunteer opportunities on 12th March.
4. Election Information Sessions 9th & 14th March – Discussion of content and attendees. Councillors were asked to notify the Assistant Clerk of their availability for the two dates. It was agreed that the events at the Village Centre on 9th March and at the Youth Club on 14th March would take the form of informal 'drop-in' sessions.
5. KCC Corporate Outcomes Framework – Consultation on KCC's Strategic Statement. Noted by councillors without further comment.
6. Land at Oliver Road – Update on Green Space (RS). Chairman Silkin advised that he and the Clerk had discussed the terms of Taylor Wimpey's offer of the green space to the Parish Council with a company representative. He said that a response from Taylor Wimpey on all the points raised was still awaited. The Clerk reminded councillors about Taylor Wimpey's invitation to its show home opening on 13th February.

7. Library, Registration & Archive Services – Consultation (SPC response – deferred item). Councillors agreed not to submit a formal response on behalf of the Parish Council, although encouraging individuals to respond, but agreed to write separately to KCC to emphasise the importance of the library as a community hub and provider of a wide range of services.
8. Mobile Phone Coverage in the Weald – MP's Invitation to public meeting 12/02/15. It was agreed that Councillors Lain-Rose and Spearink should attend the meeting.
9. Planning Conference & Workshop 27/03/15 – To consider attending KALC conference. It was agreed that Councillors Burnham, Kemp and Silkin should attend the conference.
10. Pullen Farm Solar Farm Proposal – Joint parish meeting with consultant (PK report). Councillor Kelly reported that he had attended a meeting with representatives of the solar development company and Frittenden and Headcorn parish councils, at which the company had outlined possibilities for community investment and involvement in a solar farm project at Pullen Farm. He said that the main impact of a solar farm in that location would be construction traffic travelling on the A229 through the village. He advised that further information was awaited. Councillors commented on the need to maintain an independent position in respect of any related planning application. *Councillor Perry joined the meeting at this point.*
11. Borough Councillor Update (JP) – Councillor Perry said that he had attended many hours of meetings on proposed and revised site allocations relating to the draft Maidstone Borough Local Plan. He advised that Cabinet had decided not to endorse officers' recommendations for three additional sites in Staplehurst. He felt there were encouraging signs that more notice was being taken of Neighbourhood Plans. He said that he was advancing the case for no new development to take place until existing infrastructure issues were addressed. He reported that 250 homes were allocated to Hen and Duckhurst Farm and a maximum of 535 to Fishers Farm. Councillors agreed an integrated approach was needed for the whole Fishers Farm site, taking into account constraints and views from developers and FERIA; this would reduce the figure.
12. Quotations for Hedge Work – Jubilee Field & Surrenden Playing Field. Proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Burnham, councillors voted nem con to accept the quote of £2,495 for work on the boundaries of Surrenden and Jubilee Fields.
13. Southern Water Strategic Review of Headcorn, Marden & Staplehurst – for comment. Councillors were requested to send their observations to the Clerk. Councillor Kelly asked that thanks be sent to MBC for arranging ditch clearance in Marden Road.
14. Street Name – Invitation from MBC to recommend name for land behind former Royal Oak. By majority councillors voted to agree with the developer's recommendation of 1-4 Royal Oak Mews. They further recommended that 'Chapel Lane' be added as the second line of the address.
15. Surgeries at Library – (1) Report on Parish Issues 31/01/05: Councillor Green reported residents raised the condition of the A229 to the south of the village; an advertising vehicle permanently parked in Headcorn Road; planning issues at Lainey Farm. (2) Future Dates: Councillors noted that Borough Councillor Watson would not be holding her scheduled surgery on 7th February. Councillor Spearink will attend the next Parish Council surgery on 28th February.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 20/02/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx. It was suggested that it might be useful for Arriva to attend the public meeting on mobile phone coverage in view of its mobile app initiative.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/01/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, 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, SL, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting 10/02/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
8. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller said that she was coordinating contributions to the next Village Update.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting 04/02/15. Minutes of meetings 15/10/14 and 14/01/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 20/01/15 awaited. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Burnham said that the Group would be submitting a report on proposed expenditure to Finance Group for recommendation to Full Council at its next meeting.
11. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx.
12. 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? Minutes of meeting 07/10/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting 12/02/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 18/02/15. 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? Reports of meetings 24/09/14 and 20/11/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, PS) Next meeting? Minutes of meeting 15/01/15 awaited. 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 meetings 02/09/14 and 09/12/14 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 Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS) Next meeting? Minutes of meeting 14/01/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (NK) Next meeting? Report of meeting 02/10/14 awaited.
18. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (PB) Next meeting – AGM 24/02/15. Report of meetings 11/11/14, 03/12/14 and 06/01/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
19. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: After the meeting a resident asked about a report by Kent Highways on speeds on the A229. It was suggested that enquiries about content should be addressed to the report authors.