

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 17th March 2014 at 9.20 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Ashby, Kemp and Reardon whose reasons for apology were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - Councillors agreed to take one item of urgent business relating to a Parish Council photograph.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Buller, Burnham and Lain-Rose declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors Buller and Lain-Rose declared they had been lobbied about supermarkets.

Changes to the Register of Interests – Councillor Burnham declared he had completed a new notification of disclosable pecuniary interests due to change of employment.

Interests in items on the agenda – none declared.

Requests for dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1333-1335 of 3rd March 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Spearink, approved by councillors nem con, signed by Chairman Perry and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

1. Summation of Accounts - to 7th March was noted and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.
2. Accounts for payment for approval - Proposed by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Green, the list of accounts for payment was approved nem con.
3. Action for Market Towns – membership renewal (for decision). Proposed by Chairman Perry, seconded by Councillor Butcher, the membership renewal at a cost of £125 was approved nem con.
4. Street Lights – Quotations for upgrade and decommissioning work (for approval). Councillors reviewed three quotations requested by Full Council (Min 1313). Proposed by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Spearink, councillors voted nem con to accept the quotation of £8,913.73 from Kent Highways Services to undertake the upgrade and decommissioning work listed on the quotation schedule.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Urgent Item – Councillors agreed to a request from Chairman Perry to use his Parish Councillor photograph for a non-Parish Council matter.
2. Neighbourhood Plan – *Chairman Perry closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.* The Chair of RSG thanked a number of people including attending councillors and RSG members, Mr Buller and the Clerk for their support of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation event on 13th, 15th and 16th March. There were 142 registrations at the event. Visitors included representatives from Bovis Homes, DHA Planning for Gleeson Miller and KCC Flood Risk Management. He said it was clear that drainage was assuming a higher profile in the draft plan. Councillor Burnham suggested

that communications give more profile to the statutory weight of a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Green discussed the emerging need to cover the encouragement of economic development and to engage with railway companies. A resident suggested that future Neighbourhood Plan documentation illustrate what changes there may have been from previous versions. The Clerk advised that MBC intended to run a roadshow covering its own local plan at the Village Centre on 11th April. *Chairman Perry reopened the meeting.* Councillors agreed to leaflet households about the next event on 24th, 26th and 27th April. Councillors approved donations to the United Reformed Church for use of the Church and previous use of equipment (£150 and £25) and to the WI for catering.

3. Caretaker's Report – no items to report.
4. Churchyard Agreement – Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Green, Councillors approved the proposed agreement between SPC and the Parochial Church Council relating to maintenance of the open churchyard.
5. County Councillor Meeting – Chairman Perry said that the latest update meeting with County & Borough Councillor Hotson had covered a wide range of subjects including the Neighbourhood Plan and proposals for installation of bollards on Bell Lane verges.
6. Environment Agency – Councillors noted the report of meeting with the agency on 4th March. Chairman Perry said it had been a very useful meeting. The agency was supportive of the approach to the Neighbourhood Plan. Chairman Perry advised that flood issues would be discussed at the KALC meeting on 19th March.
7. Kent Rail Summit – Proposal to lobby re 2018 franchise. Councillors agreed to seek further attendees at the summit on 30th April alongside Councillor Burnham and to carry forward the item to the next meeting's agenda.
8. Library Surgery – Councillors Gosling and Spearink advised that on 8th March they had no visitors to the surgery.
9. Marden Parish Council – Consultation on its Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors noted the letter from the Marden Neighbourhood Plan Group relating to MBC's draft local plan and agreed that a meeting with representatives from Marden and Headcorn would be appropriate.
10. Memorial Project – Councillors discussed a request from Councillor Spearink that a decision be made on the site of a WW1 memorial and remembrance garden. Some councillors expressed reservations about committing the Youth Club land and advocated considering other sites and possible collaboration with other parties. It was agreed that the item would be carried forward to the next meeting.
11. Supermarket Update – No items to report.
12. Surrenden Mews – Correspondence from MBC re naming of development: Councillors agreed to support the proposal of Clarendon Homes of '1 – 4 Surrenden Court'.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 11/04/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 24/03/14 AGM. Report of meeting 19/12/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, JP, PS) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx
4. Allotments Project Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, BM) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx
5. Strategy & Policy Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SL, SG, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx Chairman Perry advised that the Group had been reviewing standing orders and would be sending out a draft revision for review by councillors.
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx

9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Next meeting 16/04/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
11. UpRockin 2014 (JP, PB) Next meeting?
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillor Buller encouraged all to sign up to participate in the Annual Village Clean-Up this Saturday 22nd March.

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 03/06/14. Report of AGM 04/03/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 19/03/14. Minutes of meeting 18/11/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx
6. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) Next meeting 04/04/14. Report of meeting 04/09/13 awaited.
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 20/03/14. 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? Report of meeting 20/02/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 03/06/14. Report of meeting 04/03/14 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 Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS, PS) Report of meeting 22/01/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting 08/04/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
18. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx
19. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident commented on councillor representation at the Neighbourhood Plan event. After the meeting a resident commented on the style of lamp used by KCC as a replacement for a Surrenden Road street light.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Gardner's report showed 6 crimes: 2 burglaries; 1 attempted burglary; 1 criminal damage; 1 theft from motor vehicle; 1 burglary other than dwelling.