

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 at 7.15 p.m.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Before the meeting Councillor Burnham expressed thanks to all involved in the Airfield Memorial Day on Sunday and Councillor Buller voiced thanks to the Carnival & Fete Committee for Saturday's successful event.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ashby (from the point indicated in the minutes), Buller, Burnham, Butcher, Gosling, Green, Lain-Rose (from the point indicated in the minutes), Manning, Reardon, Sharp, Silkin, Spearink and Perry who was in the Chair.  
Parish Clerk: Mr MJ Westwood

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Ashby (for part of meeting), Kelly, Kemp and Lain-Rose (for part of meeting) whose apologies were accepted.

**URGENT ITEMS:** - Councillors agreed to take two items of urgent business in respect of dog fouling and Jubilee Field gates.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:**

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Health Centre, Neighbourhood Plan and Supermarkets.

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 1275-1278 of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were proposed for approval by Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Silkin, approved by councillors nem con, signed by Chairman Perry and made available at [http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).

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

1. Urgent Items – Councillor Spearink reported that a resident had spoken to him about incidents of dog fouling and an owner's abusive behaviour. Councillors agreed to raise the matter with the police, community warden and MBC Environmental Enforcement. Councillor Butcher reported that a site meeting with the Clerk and contractor engaged to repair the Jubilee Field gates led him to recommend to Council that the contractor be requested to undertake additional work beyond his quotation agreed by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (Min 1272), namely to adjust and reinforce the setting of the gates on the posts to facilitate proper opening (£100) and to reinforce the hinge of the overhead gate (£100). He also recommended seeking a quotation to install a post to allow temporary securing of the overhead gate in the open position. Proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Spearink, councillors agreed nem con to expenditure of £200 as proposed.
2. Caretaker's Reports – the Clerk advised the caretaker had found a child's bike in the Surrenden area. Councillor Buller asked that the path in front of the Parade toilet block be weeded. Councillor Butcher thanked Councillor Burnham for the evidence of alcohol consumption at Surrenden play area and asked that everyone be similarly vigilant.
3. Churchyard Agreement – Councillors Green and Silkin advised that they were finalising draft heads of terms.
4. County Councillor Meeting – Chairman Perry reported on the latest update meeting with County & Borough Councillor Hotson, which had covered a number of Council's agenda items as well as the Great Pagehurst Farm screening opinion and the Parade. *Councillor*

- Lain-Rose joined the meeting at this point.* Councillors agreed that a return visit to the Parade by MBC Environmental Enforcement would be appropriate and that allocation of any S106 money to support retail activity should be to public rather than private areas.
5. Developers' Proposals – The Clerk reported that The Parish Office had received a number of approaches. He said that Vogt Solar and Bovis were planning public exhibitions and developers had asked to meet councillors to discuss the sites at Iden Park and the Bell Inn. *Councillor Ashby joined the meeting at this point.* Councillors discussed advantages and disadvantages of such meetings before resolving to hold informal discussions with developers, leading to public events as and when appropriate.
  6. Health Centre – Councillor Silkin said he intended to follow up the delayed arrangement of a public meeting with Stephen Ingram at the CCG.
  7. Nature Reserve at Bell Lane – Councillors discussed the invitation from Golding Homes to attend a site meeting at Bell Lane on 8<sup>th</sup> July and agreed that Councillor Spearink would attend. Councillors confirmed they were still of the view expressed in January 2012 that they had no objection to work on reinstatement of the pond at the end of Bell Lane and noted that at that time Golding Homes had confirmed that they would take arisings away from the pond. They asked that the Friends of Bell Lane Nature Reserve be made aware of the proposed meeting.
  8. Neighbourhood Plan – Chairman Perry advised that a project team had been established comprising councillors and residents and that an initial meeting was due to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> July. Councillors agreed to defer discussion of correspondence from Borough Councillor Fran Wilson to allow it to be considered alongside a message from the Leader of MBC which Chairman Perry undertook to circulate.
  9. Sewerage Flooding – Councillors noted a resident's correspondence about sewerage flooding in Marden Road and agreed that the implications should be considered when reviewing future development proposals for the area.
  10. Supermarkets – no news to report.
  11. Surrenden Playing Field – Councillors considered ownership options set out in Councillor Silkin's report and resolved to approach MBC as soon as possible to request that it consider transferring the field to Parish Council ownership.

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

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Report of meeting 19/04/13 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst\\_transport.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx) Councillor Spearink advised that he was seeking explanations for the cancellation of many buses. He reported that on 20<sup>th</sup> June Kent Highways had closed a stretch of road between Hawkhurst and Cranbrook without pre-advising Arriva. Councillor Burnham reported that TFL plans to take on some inner south-east trains appear to have been abandoned.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Report of meeting 13/06/13 awaited. Minutes of meeting 21/03/13 to be posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc\\_emergency\\_planning\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx) Councillors discussed the provision of smoke alarms and noted that KFRS provides a free service.
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, JP, 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 (JP, 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, SL, SG, RS) Report of meeting 24/06/13 to be posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx). Chairman Perry highlighted that the Group's priorities were to update the Council's standing orders and policy on donations.
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Report of meeting 24/06/13 deferred for discussion on 15/07/13 [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx)
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Update following meeting 25/06/13 (JB) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth\\_activities\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx) . Councillor Buller advised that she had met Play

- Place representatives at the Guide Centre. She asked that every effort be made to promote the scheme and extended an invitation to councillors to visit.
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting 02/07/13 [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity\\_website.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx) . Councillors expressed their appreciation of the weekend's photos that Councillor Reardon had placed on the village website and of the photo montage produced by Councillor Burnham and used at the fete. Councillor Lain agreed to look into organising a competition to design a Parish Council logo and liaise with other members of the Group to take it forward. Chairman Perry suggested this could then be used on a banner that would be beneficial at public events.
  9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Next meeting 10/07/13. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](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> Councillor Reardon advised that an additional circuit had been fitted for the fete (funded by the Carnival & Fete Committee) and an electrical inspection for the Parish Council (£75) had been carried out. The Clerk confirmed receipt of the inspection certificate.
  11. UpRockin 2013 (JP, PB) Next meeting? Councillor Butcher asked for more volunteers for the event on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Volunteers need only do a two hour slot although more would always be welcome.
  12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx) .

#### **REPORTS FOR NOTING** from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_carnival\\_fete\\_committee.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx) Councillors expressed their appreciation of the tremendous efforts of the organising committee that resulted in a successful event. They agreed to write to the committee formally. Various comments on the Parish Council stall were noted for future reference.
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. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot\\_hers.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx)
4. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 01/10/13. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn\\_aerodrome.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx)
5. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Report of meeting 27/06/13 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee\\_fields\\_users\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx)
6. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Report of meeting 19/06/13 (AGM) to be posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent\\_association\\_of\\_local\\_councils.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx)
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 29/05/13 awaited. Councillors noted that Kent Highways is to undertake a safety audit of the A229 between Linton and Cranbrook.
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 11/07/13. [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, PS) Next meeting 4/07/13. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
11. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 02/07/13. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Speed Watch (JB) Next activity 03/07/13. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx>
13. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB) Next meeting?
14. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS, PS) Report of meeting 13/03/13 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)
15. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (SL, BM, JR)
16. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting 02/07/13. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_trust.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx)
17. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx)

Chairman.....

**PUBLIC FORUM:** No other items were raised.