

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 3rd October 2016 at 7.40 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gosling and Kelly.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

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 1561-1564 of 19th September 2016 were proposed for approval by Councillor Manning, seconded by Councillor Sharp, APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Councillors Claridge, Lain-Rose and Reardon abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:-

1. Headcorn Road Traffic Flow – Study & Report by Councillor Reardon to extend yellow lines (for decision). Councillors thanked Councillor Reardon for his report and AGREED that Chairman Silkin and the Clerk should draw up a letter to local residents seeking views about extending parking restrictions further along Headcorn Road from the crossroads.
2. KCC Local Transport Plan 4 Consultation – Report by Councillor Burnham (Min 1558) (for response by 30/10/16). Councillors thanked Councillor Burnham for his analysis of the consultation and AGREED that he should respond to the consultation as set out in his report published at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>.
3. Kent Highways Parish & Town Council Seminar 27/10/16 – Invitation to attend (for decision). Councillors NOTED the invitation and were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend.
4. KSSCRC Community Payback Scheme – Invitation to submit community projects (for noting). Councillors made the following suggestions for use of community payback resource: (i) clearance of cut material arising from work at Bell Lane pond; (ii) cutting of branches and laying of roadstone on footpath KM312; (iii) weeding of pavements on A229; (iv) cleaning of road signs; (v) work on Youth Club site; litter collection on rural lanes. The Clerk asked that he be provided with specific locations in order to give the scheme coordinators clear proposals.
5. Local Government Finance Settlement Consultation – Invitation to comment (closing date 28/10/16). Chairman Silkin undertook to review the proposals and report back.
6. Neighbourhood Planning Bill – Report by Councillor Burnham on NALC Policy Consultation (Min 1562) (for comment to NALC by 12/10/16). Councillors thanked Councillor Burnham for his analysis of the consultation and AGREED that he should respond to the consultation as set out in his report published at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>.
7. Parish Surgery – (i) Oral reports on parish surgeries held 24 September and 1 October. Subjects raised were: vacancy on the parish council; proposed development south of Marden Road; faded line markings at the crossroads; perceived lack of awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan. (ii) Appointment of representatives for future dates: 15 October Councillor Riordan; 22 October Chairman Silkin.

8. Staplehurst Merit Award – Proposal by Councillor Riordan for local achievement award (for decision). Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Sharp, Councillors AGREED that Councillors Claridge, Lain-Rose, Riordan, Sharp and Spearink should liaise to draw up a proposed scheme to reward service to the community.
9. Village Update - Proposal by Councillor Claridge to dedicate the next issue to the NP Referendum (for decision). Councillors AGREED that the Village Update would be issued as currently planned with front page coverage of the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. They also AGREED that Councillors Claridge, Lain-Rose and Silkin should produce an information leaflet for distribution by councillors and volunteers (Councillor Lain-Rose to co-ordinate delivery arrangements).

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS (from Committee/Groups/Office on specific issues or as regular update)

1. Clerk's Report – The Clerk reported: the KALC Finance Conference would be held on 18th October; he and Councillor Spearink would be meeting KCC on 5th October to assess the clearance work undertaken at Bell Lane pond and to identify whether further measures were needed; a quotation had been received for a new door on Surrenden Pavilion.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
 - a) Jubilee Field Management Committee – Minutes of meeting 14/09/16. Noted by councillors and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx.
 - b) Staplehurst Emergency Help Team – Minutes of meeting 14/09/16. Noted by councillors and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx.
3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only
 - a) Neighbourhood Plan – Update on arrangements for referendum (Steering Group). *Discussed under Correspondence and Parish Issues Item 9 Village Update.*
 - b) Street Names – Further to previous discussion of names for flats on Redrow's proposed development (Min1562) Councillor Spearink advised that following consultations he proposed to amend 'Fann' to 'Cherry' and, subject to further investigation, substitute 'Hollands' for 'Andrews'. He said the latter name would be retained on a list he was compiling for possible future use. NOTED by Councillors.
 - c) Survey of Transport Issues in Rural Areas – Councillor Manning said he had looked further into the survey he had reported to Council on 19th September (Min1563) and had questioned why the survey had not been distributed in Staplehurst. Councillor Spearink opined that it was for one-to-one interview use by market researchers. Councillors Burnham and Spearink said they had completed the survey.

REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNCILS, AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS for noting:-

1. Borough Councillor's Report – Councillor Perry commented on the following subjects: devolution in Kent; the Parish Survey; the likely withdrawal of the local council tax support grant; re-evaluation of the Parish Services scheme; the Surrenden Playing Field lease extension to be discussed by MBC Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee on 4th October; Local Plan hearings had commenced. He observed that significant weight was being attached to the referendum-stage Neighbourhood Plan, the advanced Local Plan and MBC's five-year land supply. He said that further information about proposals for the crossroads was to be discussed before consideration by MBC of Headcorn Road planning applications; the parish council would be involved in the discussions.
2. KALC Area Committee – Minutes of meeting 26/09/16. NOTED by Councillors and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx.

URGENT MATTERS (at Chairman's discretion, information only items for noting or for decision at a future meeting)
No items were raised.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting three speakers spoke about the following subjects: a proposal by Staplehurst Developments Limited to develop land south of Marden Road; Headcorn Road traffic flows; the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. After the meeting three speakers spoke about the following subjects: the SEHT annual exercise on 8th October; promoting the Neighbourhood Plan; using social media for campaigning.