

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 5th January 2015 at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Burnham, Gosling, Green, Kelly, Kemp, Lain-Rose (until the point indicated in the minutes), Manning, Perry, Reardon, Sharp, Spearink and Silkin who was in the Chair.

Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Buller and Butcher whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEM: - No items requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillor Spearink declared he had been lobbied about street names.

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 1400-1402 of 15th December 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Burnham, approved by councillors, signed by the Chairman and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Councillors Lain-Rose and Perry abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Report from Steering Group. *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.* The Chair of the Rural Settlement Group reported that the Steering Group had made steady progress in its review of the draft consultation statement and would be meeting on 12th January to finalise proposed responses to comments on the draft plan. *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting.* Notwithstanding two recent planning decisions which appeared at variance with Harrietsham's draft Neighbourhood Plan, Councillor Perry said he believed there was still support within MBC for the Neighbourhood Plan process.
2. Caretaker's Report – the Clerk advised that the caretaker had carried out usual litter-clearing over a quiet Christmas and New Year period.
3. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum – Correspondence (for response). Councillors discussed information received from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum relating to the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, notably about a public meeting held in Staplehurst at the time and a subsequent letter sent on behalf of that meeting to the then US ambassador. Proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Reardon, a motion to respond by way of simple acknowledgement was defeated by majority vote and councillors agreed instead that the Chairman should draft a fuller reply.
4. Electoral Review of Kent County Council – Invitation to comment. Councillors noted the review but decided to take no further action.
5. KALC Media Release re Elections 2015 – for noting and to consider a SPC release. Councillors decided not to issue their own press release, noting that there had already been publicity in the Village Update and Parish Magazine. They agreed to consider holding information sessions (evening and morning) and covering the subject again in the next Village Update by way of flyer. They agreed to defer discussion of details until the next meeting.

6. Local Government Finance Settlement 2015-16 – Consultation (for response). Councillors agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should respond supporting KALC's opposition to the extension of referendum principles.
7. Lord Lieutenant of Kent Civic Service 10/03/15 – Invitation. Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk by 02/02/15 if they wished to attend.
8. MBC Economic Development Strategy – Invitation to Briefing 13/01/15. Chairman Silkin and Councillor Kelly said they would attend the briefing. Councillor Burnham said he had attended a surgery with Borough Councillor Watson at which a possible music event on Surrenden Field and speeding at the Quarter were discussed.
9. New Year 2016 Honours – Invitation from DCLG to consider nominations. Noted by Councillors.
10. Parish Polls – DCLG Consultation (invitation to comment on proposed changes). Councillor Kemp agreed to draft a response, noting the deadline of 30/01/15.
11. Street Name for Land off Fishers Road – Invitation from MBC to comment on proposal. Councillor Spearink proposed 'The Wightwicks' or 'Wightwick Close' after brothers killed while serving during World War One. Councillors agreed nem con.

Councillor Lain-Rose left the meeting at this point.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 20/02/15. Report of meeting 05/12/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx Councillor Spearink said a meeting with Helen Grant MP and representatives of KCC and Arriva would take place on 09/01/15.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 27/01/15. 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 06/01/15. 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 13/01/15? Report of meeting 30/09/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting 14/01/15. Minutes of meeting 15/10/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting 20/01/15? Report of meeting 18/11/14 to be posted at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Reardon discussed the report of the Group's meeting of 18/11/14. Proposed by Councillor Reardon, seconded by Councillor Manning, councillors agreed the recommendation to pursue MBC's offer of a long lease over the field as soon as possible; Councillor Perry said he would take this up with MBC. Councillor Reardon said he was liaising with the school about engaging a contractor to quote for replacement play area surfacing on both sites. The Clerk confirmed that it was still planned to grind down the stump of the felled tree in the northwest corner of the field. Councillors agreed that he should seek a quotation to cut the hedge at Surrenden and Jubilee fields before the nesting season. Councillor Reardon said that he was consulting local residents about future use and facilities at Surrenden Field. He said he was seeking an inspection of the drainage pipes on the Surrenden Road side of the field as the lack of water flow into nearby drains suggested a blockage.
11. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Proposal for Annual Village Clean-Up 2015 (JB/TB). Councillor Burnham proposed a date of 21/03/15 for the Annual Village Clean-

Up, which was agreed by councillors. Councillor Perry said that the MBC Parish Conference was scheduled for that day.

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 January 2015 (date t.b.c.). 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 15/01/15. 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 14/01/15. Report of AGM 08/10/14 posted at 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 06/01/15. Report of meetings 11/11/14 and 03/12/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
19. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? Financial Statements for year ending 31/10/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident spoke about the historic background of Staplehurst's relationship with the USA.

PARISH SURGERIES: Councillor Ashby volunteered to attend the next surgery held by Borough Councillor Watson on 10th January. Councillor Green will attend with Borough Councillor Perry on 31st January and Councillor Spearink will attend on 28th February.