

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 21st December 2015 at 7.20 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Butcher whose apology was accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - There were no urgent items.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan and Speedwatch.

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 Pages 1488-1490 of 7th December 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Ashby, APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

1. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Kemp, the list of accounts for payment was APPROVED. Payments for the period 7 November to 11 December totalled £12,289.75; receipts for the period were £1,554.52 (Parish Council) and £0.50 (Village Centre Contingency Account).
2. Summation of Accounts to 11 December 2015. NOTED by councillors and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan - Preparation for Examination (Update from Steering Group). The Clerk reported that MBC had informally appointed Ms Clare Wright as examiner and that formal appointment would follow once MBC has received an indication of the likely time the examination will take. Councillor Buller reported that FERIA Urbanism is researching aspects of referendum campaigning.
2. Borough Councillor Update (JP) – Councillor Perry reported that MBC Policy & Resources Committee had discussed a potential Public Spaces Protection Order for the town centre. Councillor Perry has taken up with fellow borough councillors how the rural service centres such as Staplehurst should be treated with similar regard. He reported that he was also discussing gypsy and traveller policy and pursuing some clarity after recent central government policy announcements. The Regulation 18 proposals for the MBC Local Plan will largely go forward for Regulation 19 consultation and discussion. Councillor Perry said that delays in delivering a local plan were creating a dilemma for some borough councillors. He is taking up with Helen Grant MP the question of what central government's attitude is to neighbourhood plans. Councillor Perry reported he had been involved in debate about Maidstone receiving Syrian refugees. He stated that as things stood it seemed unlikely that planning application 13/1456 Great Pagehurst Farm would be considered by MBC at Planning Committee on 14th January.

3. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk advised that the deputy caretaker had been collecting litter on roadsides beyond the village centre.
4. Consultations
 - a) Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement – Invitation to comment as a neighbouring parish in public consultation (closing date 15/01/16). Councillors NOTED the statement as a potentially useful document to compare with MBC's own statement.
 - b) Community Infrastructure Levy Review – NALC invitation to comment on DCLG review (by 13/01/16). Chairman Silkin commented that as MBC did not have a CIL policy the Parish Council had no experience to offer as basis for comment. Councillor Buller remarked how disappointing it was that MBC had not made any progress. Councillor Perry said he would take up the issue with MBC and Helen Grant MP.
 - c) Local Council Tax Support Scheme – NALC invitation to comment on DCLG review (by 08/01/16). Councillors NOTED the review and observed with appreciation that MBC, unlike some other authorities, does pass on to parishes the LCTS funds it receives from central government.
 - d) National Planning Policy Framework – Public Consultation on proposed changes to policy (closing date 25/01/16). Councillors AGREED that the consultation should be considered by members of Planning Committee at their meeting on 4th January.
5. New Year 2017 Honours – Invitation to submit nominations (closing date 04/02/16). NOTED by councillors.
6. Notice of forthcoming casual vacancy – Councillor Kemp stated that due to moving away from the area in early January he would be resigning from the Parish Council. He thanked members for their support. Chairman Silkin expressed the Parish Council's thanks to Councillor Kemp for his contribution to the Council.
7. Parish Council Surgery – Report of surgery held on 19th December. Councillor Sharp reported that the surgery had been very quiet. Councillor Perry said that he had held one discussion.
8. Southern Water Drainage Area Plan – The report of the meeting attended by Councillor Spearink and the Clerk on 09/12/15 was NOTED by councillors and posted at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 12/02/16. Minutes of meeting 04/12/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 20/01/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, CC, TB, AG, PK, NK, RS, PS) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx Councillors Buller and Perry were thanked for addressing MBC Planning Committee about the Woodford Farm planning application 15/506037 and for securing an outcome in line with the Parish Council's recommendation.
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, CC, SL, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, NK, SL, JR) Report and recommendations arising from meeting 18/12/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx. Councillors reviewed the report of the meeting which had been circulated beforehand and made available to attending members of the public. Councillors NOTED the updates contained in items 3-6 of the report. They AGREED the recommendations in item 7 'Council Suppliers' as follows: item 7.1, gang-mowing of Surrenden Field, to ACCEPT the quotation from Landscape Services for 2016 (a 2% increase on 2015 but the most competitive of three quotations); item 7.2,

printing of Village Update and Annual Report, to ACCEPT the quotation from Paxman Printing Service (the most competitive of the two responses received); item 7.3, Bell Lane Toilet Cleansing and Opening, to CONTINUE with the current contract with Paxman Services (UK) Ltd (full review due 2018) noting the increase in price by 8% for cleansing and 5% for opening; item 7.4, street cleansing, to CONTINUE with the current contract with Paxman Services (UK) Ltd for two years noting the increase in price of 0.5%. Councillor Kelly did not participate in the discussion and abstained from the vote. Councillors AGREED the recommendations in item 8 'Parisfield Section 106 Funds' as follows: item 8.1, claim retrospective funding for £2,666.16 being maintenance expenditure at Surrenden Field and Jubilee Field not covered by Parish Services funding; item 8.2, support the Guide Centre roof appeal with the application of £4,000 from the S106 fund; item 8.3, apply £519 from the fund towards a project to provide public access to the Youth Club site from the High Street; item 8.4, apply the remainder of the S106 fund to support improvements at Surrenden Field. Item 9: councillors NOTED the status of the draft budget which envisaged maintaining the 2016-17 precept at the 2015-16 level and included proposed expenditure on new donations, subscriptions and upgrading of Speedwatch equipment and Christmas lights; the final budget and agreed precept level will need to be agreed by Full Council at its meeting on 18th January. Item 10: councillors voted nem con to ACCEPT inclusion in the NALC external audit arrangements which would be introduced in 2016-2017 following the abolition of the Audit Commission.

7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting?
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting?
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? Report of meeting with Play Place 14/12/15 (update on arrangements for 2016 scheme) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx . Councillors NOTED the report and AGREED to the recommendations for the venue (Staplehurst Primary School), timing (first three weeks of August 2016, morning sessions in weeks one and three, full day sessions in week two) and fees (£5/£10 for morning/full day respectively if booked before the start of scheme, £6/£12 thereafter).
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller said that the Group would need to consider the 2016 schedule for the Village Update at its first meeting in the New Year (possibly on 12th January).
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 04/11/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
12. Staff Group (JB, PK, SL, BM, JP) Next meeting?
13. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group (TB, AG, SL) Next meeting? Report of meeting 12/11/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx
14. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, PK, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
15. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx
16. 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 08/03/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (RS, PK, PB, JP) Next meeting 24/02/16. Report of meeting 23/11/15 posted at 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 23/09/15 and 22/10/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, NK, AS) Next meeting 18/02/16. Report of meeting 24/09/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting 18/02/16. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 01/09/15 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 Library Users Group (JB, BM) Next meeting?
16. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, AS, RS). Next meeting? Report of meeting 14/10/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx .
17. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR)
18. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/07/15 awaited.
19. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (MA, PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
20. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident spoke about MBC meeting discussions relating to gypsy and traveller policy and the relative treatments of the travelling and settled communities.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Gardner's report showed 11 crimes: 1 burglary, 3 theft, 1 attempted theft, 1 attempted burglary other than dwelling, 2 criminal damage, 2 theft from motor vehicle, 1 theft of motor vehicle.