

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 20th June 2016 at 8.05 p.m.

Before the start of the meeting all present stood in respectful silence in memory of Jo Cox MP.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Burnham, Gosling, Lain-Rose, Manning, Perry (from the point indicated in the minutes due to Borough Council business), Reardon, Spearink and Silkin who was in the Chair.

Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Claridge, Kelly, Riordan and Sharp whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - No items requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillors Buller and Burnham declared they had been lobbied about the Parade. Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interest in Items on the Agenda – Councillor Lain-Rose declared he had an interest in the Parade due to it being the location of his employment.

Requests for Dispensation – Councillors agreed that a dispensation be granted to allow Councillor Lain-Rose to participate in any discussion or vote about the Parade (Section 33(2)(c) & (e) of the Localism Act 2011).

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Minute pages 1537-1539 of 6th June 2016 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Ashby, APPROVED by Councillors (Councillors Buller, Manning and Reardon abstaining), 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 Gosling, the list of accounts for payment was APPROVED. Payments for the period 7 May to 14 June totalled £11,875.96; receipts for the period were £4,873.45 (Parish Council) and £1.29 (Village Centre Contingency Account).

2. Summation of Accounts to 14 June 2016. NOTED by councillors. Published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Verbal Update on Examination Status (by Steering Group). The Clerk reported that a new examiner had been appointed to start work on the examination of the plan with effect from 15th June. He reported that the Group had sent to MBC a response to the former examiner's interim report, specifically her comments on 'site allocation', for publication on MBC's website alongside the interim report. He said that MBC were asking questions about the response and had not yet published it. Councillor Buller thanked the Clerk for his work on the Plan.

2. Caretaker's Report – the Clerk reported that the caretaker was carrying out a great deal of strimming at Surrenden and Jubilee Fields.

3. Carnival & Fete – Arrangements for Parish Council stall (for information). The Clerk reported that a duty rota was in place for the Parish Council stall. Councillors were encouraged to contact the Assistant Clerk to offer assistance.

4. Headcorn Primary School – Public Notice of Proposed Enlargement. Councillors NOTED KCC's public notice of enlargement of Headcorn Primary School to sixty places per year group and a capacity of 420.
5. Hi Kent – Advice of Fundraising Event 19/08/16. Councillors NOTED the charity's letter of 6th June and publicity containing details of the event to be held in Staplehurst and AGREED to display publicity on the parish noticeboard.
6. Land between A229 High Street and Chestnut Avenue – Proposal to accept transfer of land from Croudace Homes (for decision). *Councillor Perry joined the meeting.* Chairman Silkin commented on the Clerk's report 'Land between A229 High Street and Chestnut Avenue' and specifically the transfer terms proposed by Croudace Homes; he explained the implications of the restrictive covenants requested of the Parish Council as transferee, which limited what the Parish Council would be able to do or construct on the land. Councillor Manning asked about the compatibility of the covenant with any eventual use of part of the land for road improvements. Chairman Silkin advised that in those circumstances Kent County Council would look to its powers as a public body. The Clerk advised that a qualification of the proposed covenants, not in his report, had been advanced which would allow the Parish Council to erect structures of the type already in place and planter tubs. Proposed by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Spearink, councillors voted nem con to ACCEPT transfer of the land on this basis.
7. MBC Local Plan – Letter from the Inspector's Programme Office about Examination. Councillors NOTED the letter from the appointed Programme Officer and that she would provide further information about the Local Plan examination process in due course.
8. Borough Council Report – Councillor Perry reported that a judicial review of the decision by Maidstone Borough Council to grant planning permission for the "change of use of land from grazing to residential for one caravan and a touring caravan and one utility shed" on land at Blossom, Maplehurst Lane on 13/07/15 had found on one of the submitted grounds that the decision was unsound and should be quashed. He said he had written to Arriva following a resident's representations about the poor quality of service. He advised that a report would be presented to MBC Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee on 5th July proposing an extension of the Surrenden Playing Field lease. He said that MBC officers had submitted a report to Kent Highways about the crossroads and a response was awaited. He had attended a MBC briefing about devolution. Borough Councillor Brice was seeking action to address drainage issues seemingly connected with the new Taylor Wimpey development. Councillor Perry said that Taylor Wimpey had indicated it would be putting a new proposal about a crossing in Marden Road to both the Parish Council and MBC. He said that land drainage issues should be referred to KCC surface water management or highways teams as appropriate rather than to MBC.
9. NALC Star Councils 2016 Awards – Invitation to submit nominations (by 31/07/16) (deferred from meeting of 6th June). Councillors AGREED to take no action.
10. Patient Transport Services – Notice of New Arrangements. Councillors NOTED that a new provider of patient transport services had been appointed.
11. Surgery Reports – (i) Reports for information on parish surgeries held 11/18 June (PR/PS); Councillors noted Councillor Riordan's report of issues raised by two residents at his surgery, namely overgrowing vegetation, Sainsbury's, planning, speeding traffic and the crossroads. Councillor Spearink reported that a resident had asked him about supermarkets. (ii) Appointment of representatives for future dates. The Clerk was requested to check whether Councillor Claridge would be available.
12. The Parade – Report on future sale and proposal that SPC investigate the possibility of acquiring land. Councillor Lain-Rose reported that lots relating to the freehold of property on the south side of the Parade were to be auctioned on 6th July. He said the land surrounding the buildings, including the car park, would not be up for auction then

but would be sold separately in the future. He referred to Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan policy VH1 which advocates protection and enhancement of shops in the village heart and recommended that the Parish Council investigate what role it could play. Councillors AGREED that Councillor Lain-Rose should make further enquiries about disposal plans for the car park and that the information should be considered by the Parish Council's Strategy and Policy Group.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next TAG meeting 24/06/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 14/09/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (MA, JB, TB, PB, CC, AG, PK, PR, RS, 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 (TB, PB, CC, PK, SL, JP, PR, RS) Next meeting 22/06/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx
6. Finance Group (TB, PB, PK, SL, JP, PR, RS) Next meeting 29/07/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting?
8. Oliver Road Open Space (CC, PK, SL, PR, AS, PS) Councillor Spearink reported that 'deep water' warning notices had been placed in the pond.
9. Playscheme (TB, JB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
10. Publicity & Website Group (MA, JB, TB, CC, PK, SL, PR, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller informed the meeting that the 2015-16 annual report and the summer Village Update would be delivered in the week commencing 27th June, together with a play scheme leaflet and the Friends of Staplehurst Health Centre newsletter.
11. Rural Settlement Group (JB, TB, JP, AS) Next meeting 06/07/16. Report of meeting 06/04/16 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, PR) Next meeting 14/07/16. Report of meeting 09/06/16 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx Councillor Lain-Rose reported that a brief for interested architects was almost ready for issue.
14. Staplehurst Youth Parish Council (SL-R)
15. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, PK, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
16. Village Enhancement Group (TB, JB, PB, PK, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx
17. Youth Club (PK, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx
2. Churchyard Liaison (PB, PK, PS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (CC, BM, JP) Next meeting 25/10/16. Report of meeting 07/06/16 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting 14/07/16 (AGM). http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (RS, PK, PB, JP) Next meeting 27/06/16 (AGM). 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, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 21/07/16. Report of meeting 19/05/16 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, BM, AS) Next meeting 20/07/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx

11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, PS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 06/09/16. Report of meeting 07/06/16 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, TB, BM) Next meeting?
16. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, AS, RS). Next meeting 06/07/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx .
17. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR, PR)
18. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (RS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 01/04/16 awaited.
19. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (MA, RS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 10/05/16 awaited. 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: No items were raised.

PCSO REPORT: PCSO Gardner's report for the month showed nine crimes: four thefts, three criminal damage incidents and two thefts of motor vehicles.