

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 4th January 2016 at 7.40 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Kemp, Perry and Reardon whose apologies were 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.

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 1491-1494 of 21st December 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Buller, APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://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 confirmation of the examiner's formal appointment was still awaited.
2. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk reported that the caretaker was regularly collecting litter from the bins at Jubilee and Surrenden Fields and from the main village streets. Councillor Buller reported that the noticeboards at the bus stops near the crossroads had been stripped of their display content. Replacement 'community noticeboard' notices will be produced for them.
3. Consultation
 - a) Public Spaces Protection Order – Correspondence from KALC Area Committee and invitation to comment (by 25/01/16). Councillors NOTED that the consultation related to the proposed introduction of a protection order for Maidstone town centre and that some members of KALC area committee felt similar measures should be adopted in some suburban and rural areas. They AGREED that Staplehurst was well served by its PCSO and AGREED to make no comment in response to the consultation.
4. Council Tax Referendum Principles – Correspondence from KALC advising that DCLG does not plan to apply the principles to the Parish sector in 2016-17 (for noting). Councillors NOTED that DCLG does not intend to apply capping and referendum requirements to parish councils in the forthcoming financial year.
5. Hawkenbury Bridge – Report of KCC response pursuant to request for traffic survey (Min1489) (for decision). Councillors NOTED that KCC had advised that if the Parish Council wanted a traffic survey of Hawkenbury Bridge it would have to commission one itself. Councillors NOTED data obtained by the Clerk from 'Crashmap' which showed two recorded accidents involving casualties at the bridge and three in the vicinity of it between 2005 and 2014. They commented that there had been other accidents at the site which had gone unrecorded. Councillor Claridge suggested that a wider review be undertaken across the village to identify those roads where it was felt most problems

occurred. Councillors Claridge and Silkin volunteered to consider how best to achieve this goal, which was AGREED by councillors. They further AGREED that (a) Councillor Reardon and Kent Highways should be engaged in the process and (b) consideration should be given to writing a Village Update article to request accident reports from local residents.

6. Lord Lieutenant of Kent Civic Service 15/03/16 – Invitation (for decision). Councillor Buller volunteered to attend the service, which was AGREED by councillors.
7. Focus and Community Group Appointments – New Appointments Required (for decision)
 - a) Village Centre Management Committee - Parish Council representative to replace Cllr Butcher following VCMC AGM in February 2016. Councillors AGREED that Chairman Silkin be nominated as replacement for Councillor Butcher.
 - b) Various Focus and Community Groups – to replace Cllr Kemp after 4th January 2016. Councillors AGREED that Councillor Kemp's positions be left unfilled for the time being with the exception of the following groups: Rural Settlement Group – replacement Councillor Burnham; Police/Parish Liaison – replacement Councillor Manning.

Before taking reports from focus and community groups Chairman Silkin temporarily closed the meeting and all present joined him in warmly congratulating Councillor Buller on her well-deserved award of the British Empire Medal in the 2016 New Year's Honours List 'for services to the community in Staplehurst, Kent'.

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, 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, RS, PS) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx The Clerk asked Councillors for assistance in delivering leaflets to addresses near the proposed Redrow development site to advertise the Full Council meeting on 18th January.
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, SL, JR) Next meeting 15/01/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting?
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting?
9. Playscheme (TB, JB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, SL, JR) Next meeting 12/01/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller reported that the Group would be meeting on 12th January and would be finalising the timetable for this year's Village Updates. She asked the Clerk to seek feedback from the delivery company about its distribution of the Winter Village Update.
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, TB, 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 late January/early February 2016. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx Councillor Lain-Rose reported that a surveyor would be undertaking a survey of the Village Centre on 18th January.
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 . Councillor Kelly reported that the PCC had agreed churchyard work, including some to meet KCC requirements, which entailed an overspend on the current year's budget. The PCC will fund the work temporarily and recover the funds from next year's budget contribution from the Parish Council.
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. 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? Reports of meetings 23/09/15 and 22/10/15 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 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, 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 (PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/07/15 awaited.
19. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (MA, PB) Next meeting 09/02/15 (AGM). 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 thanked the Parish Council for the pre-Christmas social evening it had arranged for village volunteers.