

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7.15 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ashby, Burnham, Claridge, Gosling, Kelly, Lain-Rose, Perry (from the point indicated in the minutes), Riordan, Sharp, Spearink and Silkin who was in the Chair.

Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Buller, Butcher, Manning and Reardon whose apologies were accepted.

**URGENT ITEMS:** - No items requested.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS** regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – no items declared.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interest in Items on the Agenda – no items declared.

Requests for Dispensation – none requested.

**APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES** Minute pages 1533-1536 of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were proposed for approval by Councillor Gosling, seconded by Councillor Spearink, APPROVED by Councillors (Councillor Claridge abstaining), signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at [http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).

**CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-**

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Report on Examination Status and meeting with MBC. *Councillor Perry joined the meeting.* Chairman Silkin discussed the Clerk's report of the meeting held with MBC on 26<sup>th</sup> May. He advised that following the withdrawal of the examiner's accreditation by the appointing body (NPIERS) a new examiner was needed and two names had just been put forward for consideration; the Steering Group and MBC were pursuing a new appointment as a priority.
2. Borough Council Report – Councillor Perry reported that he had been elected as Chairman of MBC Planning Committee. He said that the Local Plan had more weight following submission to the Planning Inspectorate and demonstration of a five year land supply for housing. He reported that he had participated in a meeting with Helen Grant MP, which covered bus services and Gypsy and Traveller settlements including specific reference to Maplehurst.
3. Caretaker's Report – the Clerk reported: the Surrenden Playing Field bins had been very full after the successful 10k run at the weekend; the trimmer was being repaired.
4. Armed Forces Day – Invitation to Flag-Raising Ceremony 20/06/16. Councillor Spearink said he would attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillor Perry said he would also be attending as a borough councillor.
5. Bell Lane Land – Quotations for Clearance Work (for decision). Councillors AGREED to accept the quotation from Twig Group set out in the confidential note 'Tender Responses for Bell Lane Pond Work' subject to clarification about clearance of materials.
6. Bus Service – Correspondence (for comment and/or noting). Councillors NOTED the comments received from a resident about continued failings in the bus service. Councillor Perry said he would write to Mr Robert Patterson at Arriva.
7. Consultation – KCC Active Travel Strategy: invitation to comment (by 13/07/16). Councillors NOTED the consultation invitation without further comment.

8. KCC 8<sup>th</sup> Rail Summit 16/05/16 – Report from Mr Colin Love (for noting). Councillors NOTED the report from Mr Love and recorded their thanks to him.
9. NALC Star Councils 2016 Awards – Invitation to submit nominations (by 31/07/16). Councillors AGREED to DEFER discussion until the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> June.
10. Planning Training – Invitation from MBC to attend member training sessions (for decision). Councillors volunteered to attend sessions: July – Cllrs Burnham and Riordan; September – Councillors Riordan and Silkin; September, October and November – Councillor Riordan. Councillors AGREED to investigate opportunities to hold local bespoke training.
11. SLCC Membership – Staff membership subscriptions 2016-17 (for approval). Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Burnham, Councillors APPROVED the funding of staff subscriptions at a total cost of £483.
12. Surgery Reports – (i) Reports for information on parish surgeries held 21/28 May and 4 June (MA/AG/RS). The only issue raised in the three sessions had been highway and fencing repair on the high street. (ii) Appointment of representatives for future dates: 18<sup>th</sup> June – Councillor Spearink; 25<sup>th</sup> June – no surgery due to Carnival; 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Councillor Sharp.

**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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx)
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 08/06/16. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc\\_emergency\\_planning\\_group.aspx](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](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx)
5. Strategy & Policy Group (TB, PB, CC, PK, SL, JP, PR, RS) Next meeting week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> June. Report of meeting 18/05/16 posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx). Chairman Silkin commented on the meeting report and recommendations and said that the proposals relating to recording of parish council meetings were a natural consequence of legislative change. He said that the Group was discussing revisions to the format of Full Council's agenda (of which a draft had been circulated to councillors for information) with the aim of reducing its length and managing more efficiently the reporting by focus and community group representatives.
6. Finance Group (TB, PB, PK, SL, JP, PR, RS) Next meeting 29/07/16. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx).
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink said he would be arranging a programme for the Mayor's visit to Staplehurst on 14<sup>th</sup> July.
8. Oliver Road Open Space (CC, PK, SL, PR, AS, PS) Councillor Spearink gave a verbal update on current status of works. Details of the Great Crested Newt licence and draft transfer documentation have been requested from Taylor Wimpey. Councillor Spearink said he would make a list of items on the management plan that remained outstanding.
9. Playscheme (TB, JB) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth\\_activities\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx) Councillors NOTED the Clerk's report on the status of preparations. They specifically NOTED that MBC had awarded a grant of £500 towards the scheme and that Headcorn Parish Council was not running a scheme in 2016 but was advising enquirers that Staplehurst was.
10. Publicity & Website Group (MA, JB, TB, CC, PK, SL, PR, JR) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity\\_website.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx) Councillor Burnham said that a draft of the next Village Update had been prepared. Councillor Kelly said that the Annual Report had been completed.
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](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 09/06/16. Report of meeting 12/05/16 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_redevelopment\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx) Proposed Architect's Brief (for comment). Councillor Lain-Rose discussed the proposed brief which was designed to seek ideas and early concepts from interested architects, which would in turn inform further engagement with the wider community. He said that at this stage involvement from architects would be on a pro bono basis.
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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx)
17. Youth Club (PK, AS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](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](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx)
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (CC, BM, JP) Next meeting 07/06/16. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn\\_aerodrome.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx)
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting 14/07/16 (AGM). Report of meeting 12/05/16 and follow-up information about drainage works. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee\\_fields\\_users\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx) Proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, Councillors AGREED to endorse payment of £1,500 towards proposed drainage works on Jubilee Field (previous agreement in principle to £2,000 Min1517). Councillor Riordan said that the work had been rescheduled to start on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
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](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx).
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](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](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 07/06/16. Report of meeting 01/03/16 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. Report of meeting 27/04/16 posted at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient\\_participation\\_group\\_at\\_health\\_centre.aspx](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](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 Councillor Gosling said that she had contacted Maidstone Borough Council about illegal display of referendum posters on the public highway.