

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Butcher and Claridge whose reasons for apology were accepted.

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

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** Minute pages 1540-1543 of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Manning, APPROVED by Councillors (Councillors Kelly, Riordan and Sharp 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).

**FINANCE REPORTS**

No items

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

1. Ashford Local Plan to 2030 – Regulation 19 Consultation. NOTED without comment by Councillors.
2. WKPS request for Neighbourhood Plan progress article for August newsletter – Chairman Silkin volunteered to draft a short article about the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan for the Weald of Kent Protection Society newsletter.

*Councillor Perry joined the meeting.*

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS** (from Committee/Groups/Office on specific issues or as regular update)

1. Clerk's Report – (i) Neighbourhood Plan – MBC had advised that the new examiner had visited Staplehurst and had started writing his report on the plan; (ii) Meeting with Taylor Wimpey – a meeting was being arranged with Taylor Wimpey to discuss the proposals for the Marden Road crossing and work on Wimpey Field; (iii) Parish Office – would be closed on 8<sup>th</sup> July; (iv) Surrenden Field – the Caretaker had reported the field had recovered well after the Fete and he was looking into replacement of the wooden beam in the play area and the feasibility of fitting latches on the gates.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
  - a) Strategy & Policy Group – Report and recommendations from meeting 22/06/16 (for information and decision). Councillors NOTED the report which was published at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx) and AGREED the following recommendations: (i) Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Gosling, with effect from 2017 the number of scheduled Full Council meetings will reduce from 24 to 21 by dropping meetings on the first Monday in January, the first Monday in May and one Monday in August. Planning Committee meetings will be held on those dates if required. Councillor Spearink asked that his vote against the proposal be recorded. (ii) Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, a small group of councillors should draw up a list of village assets to be considered for applications to be made to MBC for listing as assets of community value. Councillors Buller, Burnham, Sharp and Silkin volunteered to undertake the

task. Councillor Buller said she would raise the subject with the Rural Settlement Group. (iii) Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Perry, the statement prepared by Councillor Spearink is adopted as a street-naming policy to be reviewed in 2018: "For every three new roads one will be named after one of our WW1 war dead, with the exception of those whose family name has already been used. One will be a village worthy and one will be a 'wild card', i.e. something that seems relevant at the time. If there is no obvious candidate for this then we revert to one of the other two categories."

- b) Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) – The report of the meeting dated 08/06/16 was NOTED by councillors and published at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc\\_emergency\\_planning\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx).
3. Verbal Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only
- a) Parish Surgery – (i) Report for information on parish surgery held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Councillor Spearink reported that residents of Lime Trees had discussed parking. He commented that previous experience had shown how important it was for residents to gather evidence to support requests to MBC to act on such problems. Councillor Sharp said she had been asked about the status of the proposed crossing on Marden Road. (ii) Appointment of representatives for future dates (for decision). 9<sup>th</sup> July – Cllr Gosling; 16<sup>th</sup> July – Cllr Claridge; 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Cllr Riordan; 30<sup>th</sup> July – Cllr Ashby; 6<sup>th</sup> August – Cllr Burnham.

**REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNCILS, AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS** for noting:-

1. Borough Councillor's Report (including report of surgery 25/06/16) – Councillor Perry reported that MBC was receiving a large number of outline planning applications and that traffic issues were featuring prominently in them.
2. Kent Police – Notice of withdrawal of Mobile Police Stations from 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Councillors NOTED that the Chief Constable's office had decided to redeploy the PCSOs who have been staffing the mobile police stations and that the visits of the mobile stations had ceased with immediate effect.

**REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS** (written reports for noting):-

1. Staplehurst Scout Group – Minutes of AGM 07/06/16. NOTED by Councillors.

**URGENT MATTERS** (at Chairman's discretion, information only items for noting or for decision at a future meeting)

No items were raised.

**SPECIAL MOTION & REPORT- STAFF ISSUES:-**

1. To move that the public be excluded from item 2 due to its confidential nature – Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, Councillors voted nem con to take item 2 in private session because it related to a staff matter. The attending member of the public left the meeting.
2. To consider Staff Group's report and recommendations on RFO pay review following NJC pay scale update. Councillors considered Councillor Lain-Rose's report dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and voted nem con to agree the recommended increase in line with the updated NJC pay scale as set out in section 4 of the report.

Chairman.....

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Before the meeting residents of The Bartons asked about the Parish Council's plans for the Wimpey Field. Councillor Spearink said he would meet them to discuss their questions. Councillor Buller reported the sad passing of Cherry Fann who had done so much for the village.