

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 20th January 2014 at 7.50 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Reardon whose reason for apology was accepted. Councillor Lain-Rose was absent but sent subsequent apologies.

URGENT ITEMS: - No items were requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan, the Village Centre Contingency Fund and the local bus service.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in items on the agenda – none declared.

Requests for dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1321-1323 of 6th January 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Kemp, approved by councillors nem con, signed by Chairman Perry and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

1. Summation of Accounts to 10th January was noted and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.
2. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Kemp, seconded by Councillor Green, the list of accounts for payment was approved nem con.
3. Parish Precept 2014-1015 – Chairman Perry spoke to Recommendation 1 arising from the Finance Group meeting of 13th January, which was for a net precept of £121,720; he said the increase equated to an additional £10.13 per annum for a Band D property. He advised that this allowed for an increase of £5,000 in the General Fund and an additional £5,000 for Neighbourhood Plan costs and also took account of the wide range of services provided by the Parish Council. Councillor Kelly highlighted the significance of churchyard expenditure. Councillors voted nem con to approve the recommendation.
4. Subscription Renewal – National Allotment Society (for approval). Proposed by Councillor Butcher, seconded by Councillor Spearink, councillors voted nem con to renew membership at a cost of £55.
5. Village Centre Contingency Fund – Request for Payment. Chairman Perry spoke to the letter from the Chair of the Trustees of Staplehurst Village Centre dated 30th December 2013 requesting payment of £5,000 by way of grant from the contingency fund for substantive works to the interior and exterior of the South Hall. He also discussed the previously circulated proposed joint statement of understanding between the Trustees and the Parish Council in relation to management of the contingency fund. Subject to changing references in the statement from the "Village Centre Management Committee" to "Trustees of Staplehurst Village Centre", councillors voted nem con to agree the wording of the statement and to pay by way of grant the requested £5,000 (Councillors Buller, Butcher, Kelly and Sharp abstaining).
6. Other Finance Group Recommendations – Councillors agreed to the proposed hire of the North Hall for the Neighbourhood Plan event starting on 31st January. They also noted

progress towards a new agreement covering maintenance of the churchyard and voted nem con (Councillors Green, Kemp and Spearink abstaining) to consider the old agreement as covering the period until the end of February.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Councillors requested that leaflets advertising the consultation event on 31st January, 1st and 2nd February be produced and delivered to parish addresses.
2. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk reported that flood at the western end of Nicholson Walk had cleared following intervention of Kent Highways to attend to the A229 flooding.
3. Churchyard Agreement – No further points were discussed.
4. Library Surgery – Councillor Buller advised that five residents had attended. Questions included the status of work on the Sainsbury's supermarket and damage to a tree at the Marden Road crossroads.
5. Local Bus Service – Councillor Spearink advised that Councillor Reardon had been interviewed on Radio Kent about the KCC Freedom Pass.
6. Meeting with MP – Chairman Perry advised that the scheduled meeting had been postponed by Helen Grant's office and that he was seeking a new date as a priority.
7. Memorial – Pilot Officer Doutremont and Booking Clerk Charles Ashdown. Councillor Green reported that the memorial plaque at the station needed some restoration work. Councillors asked that responsibility for the plaque be ascertained and agreed that the Parish Council would fund the cost of the necessary work.
8. WW1 Centenary – Commemoration Proposal from Mr Ted Sergison. Councillors expressed support for Mr Sergison's proposal for a centenary memorial. They agreed that he be invited to discuss the proposal further at the next Council meeting, with a view then to setting up a small project group to take the proposal forward.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 07/02/14. Minutes of meeting 06/12/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 19/12/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, JP, PS) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx Councillor Butcher reported that a meeting had been held with representatives of Kent Highways Services to discuss highways issues arising in planning applications, particularly relating to supermarket ones. He also advised he had met the Head of MBC's planning department who had acknowledged the traveller issues in the parish but observed that the lack of any borough policy restricted his scope for action.
4. Allotments Project Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, BM) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx
5. Strategy & Policy Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SL, SG, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx Chairman Perry said he would be arranging a meeting to review standing orders.
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting? Minutes of meeting 13/01/2014 to be posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx Councillor Buller reported that a meeting would be held with Play Place in February to discuss the 2014 play scheme. Councillors agreed to seek details of availability of the Guide Centre.
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller advised that copy for the next Village Update was needed by the end of the week.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Next meeting 12/02/14. Report of meeting 15/01/14 to be posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.

10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
Councillor Burnham reported that he had received information about a MBC scheme to assist in upgrading play areas and that he would be looking further into it. Chairman Perry advised that a meeting with MBC's Head of Environment & Public Realm would be held on 28th January to discuss ownership of assets in Staplehurst. Councillor Burnham agreed to write a draft statement on parish green spaces.
11. UpRockin 2014 (JP, PB) Next meeting? Councillor Butcher advised that no funding would be available from KCC or MBC. Councillors asked that an approach be made to Sainsbury's for possible funding. Councillors confirmed that they wished the event to be held this year.
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx.

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx Councillors agreed in principle to Councillor Manning's request on behalf of the Committee that it be allowed to hold three events on Surrenden Field during 2014, namely a daytime carnival, an evening music event and a 10K run.
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 04/03/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Minutes of meeting 18/11/13 and report of AGM 23/11/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx
6. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) Next meeting? Report of meeting 04/09/13 awaited.
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 20/03/14. Report of meeting 16/01/14 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, PS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK) Next meeting?
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 04/03/14. <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 Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS, PS) Next meeting 22/01/14. Report of meeting 30/10/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting? Minutes of meeting 12/11/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
18. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx
19. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident offered to help distribute the Neighbourhood Plan leaflets.

POLICE REPORT: The monthly report of PCSO Gardner was read, showing six crimes: four criminal damage, one theft and one burglary.

LIBRARY SURGERY: 8th February – Councillors Green and Spearink.