

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 16th June 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Gosling and Reardon whose reasons for apology were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - None requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Buller and Lain-Rose declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan, street lights and Village Centre. Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about Christmas lights.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in items on the agenda – Councillor Sharp declared an interest in the Village Centre.

Requests for dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1352-1353 of 2nd June 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, approved by councillors nem con, signed by the Chairman and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

1. Summation of Accounts to 06 June 2014. Noted by councillors and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.
2. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Manning, seconded by Councillor Burnham, the list of accounts for payment was approved nem con.
3. Christmas Lights – Proposal to acquire additional lights. Proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Kemp, Councillors approved the purchase of four additional light strings for the Christmas motifs at an estimated £130 plus fitting costs. Councillors agreed to defer discussion of acquiring more motifs for deployment beyond Church Hill until the next budget.
4. Parish On-line – annual renewal. Proposed by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, councillors approved renewal of subscription to the Parish On-line mapping service at a cost of £84.
5. Pension – notice of requirement to form employer policy. Councillors noted that publication of KCC's policies was awaited and agreed that the subject should then be reviewed by Finance Group and Strategy and Policy Group as appropriate.
6. Street Lights – proposal for upgrade of Crowther Close lights. Councillors voted nem con to approve expenditure of £2,253.53 to replace three concrete columns with new ones and to replace five old lanterns with new LED ones to facilitate adoption by KCC.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Review of Reg. 14 Consultation to date; Marden Meeting. Councillors noted that 161 people had signed into the event at the United Reformed Church on 11th June and that there had been a good footfall at the library drop-in event on 14th June. They also noted that there had been press coverage ahead of the event and agreed that it was now important to encourage as many responses as possible

during the consultation period. Councillors agreed that as well as promoting the event at the Carnival they would run a further drop-in session at the library on 12th July. Councillor Kemp reported on the meeting held by the Marden Neighbourhood Plan Group, which had been attended by representatives of neighbouring parishes. He said it was clear that a significant factor for any local plan was the impact of neighbouring plans and developments, with traffic and road capacity being notable examples of key areas affected. Councillors agreed that it was important to maintain contact with neighbouring areas as plans develop.

2. Caretaker's Report – proposal to purchase equipment. Proposed by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Burnham, councillors approved expenditure of up to £500 to fund purchase of a petrol strimmer/brushcutter, related safety clothing, equipment and training for use by the village caretaker.
3. Carnival & Fete – Arrangements for Parish Council Stall. Councillors congratulated the Carnival & Fete Committee on the brochure for the event. The Clerk asked councillors to sign up to the rota for the Parish Council's stall.
4. Consultation – Underground Drilling: Payments for Access (NALC's invitation to comment). Noted without comment by councillors.
5. KALC Event – Chief Constable, Police & Crime Commissioner & SECAMB (Invitation). Councillor Kemp volunteered to attend the meeting at Kings Hill on 9th July.
6. Library Surgery – Future Arrangements. Chairman Perry said that in his new role as borough councillor he was taking over the borough councillor library surgery on the last Saturday of each month. Councillors agreed with immediate effect to move the Parish Council surgery from the second Saturday to the last Saturday and thereby run a joint Parish-Borough Council surgery. Councillor Lain-Rose volunteered to attend the first such session on 28th June. Councillor Buller reported that at the last surgery residents had expressed concerns about fly-tipping in garage areas by Alen Square and Benden Close and about part-night street lighting.
7. Maidstone Borough Council Update - Chairman Perry said that he wanted to provide a borough council update as a regular item on future agendas. Following his election as borough councillor for Staplehurst ward he had been appointed to the Cabinet with responsibility for Community and Leisure services. He said he would be meeting KALC representatives in that capacity. He advised that Cllr Clive English had been elected as chairman of MBC's planning committee and that a key member of the Spatial Policy team would be leaving next month. Councillor Spearink reported that as parish representatives he and Councillor Lain-Rose had attended the Civic Service for the new mayor.
8. Maidstone Riverside Run – Chairman Perry congratulated all concerned in the organisation of the run and particularly local resident Caron Holden, noting that the event raised funds for a very good cause. He also commended the fundraising efforts and events of the Carnival & Fete committee.
9. Milestone Society – Correspondence (for noting and decision re membership). Councillors noted the correspondence and asked that it be forwarded as an item of interest to the Staplehurst Society.
10. Village Centre – Verbal report on future plans. Councillor Kelly said that it would be for the Village Centre trustees to decide on future plans for the centre. Councillor Lain-Rose said he would take to the Village Centre Management Committee a request to comment on the Neighbourhood Plan.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 20/06/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
Councillor Spearink said that the Arriva bus service had been performing at a worse level

- recently and that Helen Grant MP's office was organising a meeting with the company and parish representatives.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 19/06/14. Report of meeting 24/04/14 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 Burnham reported that the introduction of shared service administration between Maidstone, Swale and Tunbridge Wells was experiencing problems.
 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, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx Chairman Perry said a meeting would be arranged shortly.
 6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx Chairman Perry said a meeting would be arranged shortly.
 7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting 25/06/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx Councillor Buller asked for application forms to be available at the Carnival. Councillor Spearink advised that Greenworld had contacted Play Place about becoming involved in the scheme. The Clerk said that MBC had offered a grant of £750 towards the cost of the scheme.
 8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? Report of meeting 25/03/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller advised that volunteers were delivering the Parish Council annual report. She thanked particularly local resident Jenny Fairfax for helping to process the reports and other publications and the Carnival & Fete committee for their deliveries to outlying areas. Councillors expressed appreciation of the hard work of Councillor Buller in editing and organising the annual report. Councillor Buller reminded councillors to update their profiles on the village website. Councillor Spearink remarked that there were no 2014 photographs on the Staplehurst Picture Book site; Councillor Buller said she would raise this with the Group.
 9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting 18/06/14. 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 said that a meeting of the Group would be held soon. He asked that drainage of the field be tabled for discussion on Full Council's agenda.
 11. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillor Kelly reported that with assistance from local resident Robin Oakley the vandalised planters at Bell Lane had been restored to health.
 12. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx Councillor Lain-Rose said that Youth Club would reopen on 17th June following closure last Tuesday. He said the youth worker would be making a written report on activities.

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 Chairman Perry reported that the new churchyard maintenance agreement between the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council had been signed.
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting? Report of meeting 03/06/14 awaited. Minutes of meeting 04/03/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting 26/06/14. Minutes of meeting 27/03/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting? Minutes of meeting 28/05/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx

6. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) Next meeting 02/07/14. Councillor Buller volunteered to attend the next meeting.
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 17/07/14. 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 21/08/14. Minutes of meeting 27/05/14 awaited http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting 08/07/14. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillors Kemp, Perry and Spearink confirmed they wished to attend the next meeting of the Group.
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Spearink reported from the meeting on 3rd June; he said that the home had been assessed positively in a recent inspection.
13. Speed Watch (JB) <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx> Councillors Buller and Spearink advised that a number of new recruits for the Speedwatch team had come forward.
14. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB) Next meeting?
15. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS) Report of meeting 22/01/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting? Reports of meetings 15/04/14 and 13/05/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
18. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident asked about a non-functioning street light in Marden Road. The Clerk advised that it was an old Parish-owned one scheduled to be decommissioned. The resident asked about overgrown grass in Newlyn Drive. The Clerk advised that enquiries had been made of MBC and KCC as to ownership and responsibility. After the meeting a resident asked about the implications for the library of the reported resignation of the head of service. Chairman Perry said he would discuss this in his next meeting with County Councillor Hotson.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Gardner's report showed 9 crimes: 1 burglary; 2 burglaries other than dwelling; 2 attempted burglaries; 1 theft from motor vehicle; 2 criminal damage; 1 theft.

LIBRARY SURGERY: On 28th June Councillor Lain-Rose to represent SPC at a joint surgery with Borough Councillor Perry.