

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 1st February 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher and Reardon whose apologies were accepted. Councillor Lain-Rose was absent.

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 and delivery of the Village Update.

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 1498-1503 of 18th January 2016 were proposed for approval by Councillor Manning, seconded by Councillor Sharp, 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 – Verbal Update on Examination Status. The Clerk reported: the Steering Group had provided information to MBC in response to the Examiner's initial questions; the Examiner had now made follow-up comments about the Conditions Statement, which were to be considered by the Steering Group and FERIA Urbanism; there was to be a change of officer responsible for the Neighbourhood Plan process at MBC.
2. Borough Council Report – Councillor Perry reported on the Maidstone Draft Local Plan: Maidstone Borough Council had approved the draft Local Plan for Regulation 19 consultation; it had been a difficult decision for many councillors and he had opposed it; a key driver for many councillors was to progress towards achieving a five-year housing supply in Maidstone borough; the consultation period would begin on 5th February; there would be a public meeting at Maidstone Studios on 11th February. Councillor Buller highlighted that the Regulation 19 plan contained a proposed allocation of housing on land north of Henhurst Farm in Staplehurst, which does not feature in the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Perry said that because of his previous involvement in consideration of the Great Pagehurst Farm planning application 13/1456 he would not be able to participate in the consideration of the application by MBC Planning Committee on 4th February; a substitute is being sought.
3. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk reported that the regular caretaker was now back on duty.
4. Carnival & Fete Committee – Request to use Surrenden Field for 10K Run (5th June) and Carnival (25th June). Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Sharp, Councillors AGREED to the request.
5. Consultation – KCC Mobile Library Service Proposals – Closing Date 4th March (for comment) <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/mobilelibraries/consultationHome>. Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Manning, Councillors AGREED to respond

- that they considered the proposals to be realistic but they hoped that any redundancies would be kept to a minimum.
6. KALC Planning Conference, Lenham, 7th March – Invitation to attend (for decision) <http://www.kentalc.gov.uk/event-2151018>. Councillors were requested to contact the Clerk if interested in attending the conference. They agreed the invitation should be placed on the next Planning Committee agenda.
 7. Parish Services Scheme – Proposed 2016/17 Payment and MBC Agreement (for decision). Councillor Perry commented that future arrangements under the Parish Services Scheme would be discussed by the Parish Liaison Group. He said he would be raising the question of payment for churchyards and play areas. Noting that these discussions would not impact on 2016/17 arrangements, proposed by Councillor Burnham and seconded by Councillor Spearink, Councillors voted nem con to sign the 2016/17 Funding Agreement under which MBC would provide funding of £9,560.
 8. Parish Surgery – (i) Report on 30th January Surgery. Councillor Claridge reported that he and Councillors Manning, Perry and Spearink had attended the surgery and received fourteen visitors. The main topics raised were housing, transport and the no.5 bus service. Councillor Claridge said comments from residents indicated that communication with them could be improved. Councillors AGREED to discuss as an agenda item at the next Full Council meeting the subject of the frequency and format of the Parish surgeries. (ii) Nomination of Representative for 27th February surgery – Councillors Burnham and Gosling volunteered; for 26th March Chairman Silkin volunteered.
 9. Village Update – Proposal from Publicity & Website Group for 2016 Distribution. Councillor Buller explained that the Publicity & Website Group had discussed how to deliver the three 2016 editions of the Village Update and that the majority of the Group favoured using a distribution company. Proposed by Councillor Gosling and seconded by Councillor Spearink, Councillors AGREED to have three deliveries undertaken by Leafleteers Ltd at a cost of £380 plus VAT per delivery (Councillor Buller abstained). Councillors AGREED that letters should be sent to volunteer distributors to explain the arrangements.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 12/02/16. Minutes of meeting 04/12/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx Councillor Burnham said the new 5X bus service was appreciated. Councillor Buller asked that in cases of diversion, such as experienced following recent accidents on the A229, buses continue to stop at the Station wherever possible; Councillor Spearink will take this up with Arriva.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 23/03/16. 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
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 29/04/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx.
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink said he had completed the MBC tourism survey discussed at the last Full Council meeting (Min1501); he and Councillor Perry would be providing to MBC information about brown 'tourist signs' in the parish.
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink said he had circulated to Councillors photographs of work undertaken by Taylor Wimpey on the open space site, which appeared to be well executed in line with the management plan.
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? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller said she was collating contributions for the Village Update for distribution the week commencing 29th February.
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, TB, AS) Next meeting 03/02/15. 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 11/02/16. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx.
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 .
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 03/03/16. <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 10/02/16 (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 asked the Parish Council to continue using volunteers to distribute the Village Update. A resident asked the Parish Council to set up a Youth Council (to be placed for discussion on the next Full Council agenda). After the meeting the Staplehurst Flood Warden commented that a house in Clapper Lane was putting in place a flood bund and that there was evidence of an increased rate of water run-off on solar farms.