

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 21st July 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

Prior to the start of the meeting, all stood in respectful silence in memory of local resident Ted Sergison who had died recently.

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

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

URGENT ITEMS: - No items were requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Buller, Gosling, Green, Lain-Rose and Perry declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors Buller and Lain-Rose declared they had been lobbied about buses. Councillors Buller and Perry declared they had been lobbied about signage. Councillors Ashby and Buller declared they had been lobbied about vegetation.

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 1358-1361 of 7th July 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Ashby, seconded by Councillor Green, 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 11th July 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 Silkin, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, the list of accounts for payment was approved nem con.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Neighbourhood Plan – Review of Reg. 14 Consultation. *Chairman Perry closed the meeting to allow contributions from members of the public.* The Chair of RSG said there had been some good quality feedback about the Regulation 14 draft plan from various parties. 35 e-mails and 12 hard copy items had been received. 83 on-line questionnaires had been submitted. He said it was encouraging that Planning Aid had supported the approach of the Harrietsham Neighbourhood Plan, which mirrored that followed for Staplehurst. He advised that Fera would be continuing its analysis of the feedback, reviewing the fit of the Neighbourhood Plan with the MBC draft local plan and drawing up a consultation statement. He reported that it seemed unlikely the results of MBC's latest land call would be known until January 2015 and in the meantime MBC planned to hold a meeting for representatives of parishes on 17th September. *Chairman Perry reopened the meeting.* Councillor Buller thanked the Chair of RSG for his hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan.
2. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk reported that new equipment ordered for the Caretaker had arrived and suitable training was to be arranged.

3. ACRK Event – Invitation to Care and Community Conference. Councillors were asked to notify the Parish Office if they wished to attend the conference.
4. Maidstone Borough Council Update – Verbal Report. Chairman Perry said MBC was working on a new Parish Charter. Councillor Kelly questioned MBC's approach to funding provision of public toilets. Councillor Green suggested that MBC be approached about reopening toilets at the Parade, which councillors agreed should be considered at a future meeting so that full information could be made available for discussion.
5. Signage – Drey Cottage/Chapel Lane. Councillors noted the request from Kent Highways to a resident to cut back a tree obscuring a road sign on High Street opposite the end of Chapel Lane. However, they felt that the sign had been poorly located in the first place and believed it served no useful purpose. They agreed to ask Kent Highways to reconsider its request and the signage in the vicinity and to advise local residents of the position. Councillor Silkin asked that the Village Enhancement Group examine the signage in the village and consider its appropriateness.
6. Surface Water Management Plan – Steering Group. On being advised that resident Andrew Watson was agreeable to representing Staplehurst on the steering group being co-ordinated by KCC, councillors thanked Mr Watson for his offer and agreed to put his name forward. They also agreed to ask Councillor Kemp if he would be prepared to be the second representative.
7. WW1 Commemoration – Southeastern Contributions. Councillors noted the potential availability of funding from Southeastern trains for restoration of memorials. Councillor Spearink agreed to discuss this with the Rector of All Saints.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 19/09/14. Report of meeting 20/06/14 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx. Councillor Spearink reported on the withdrawal of subsidies by East Sussex County Council, impacting on Sunday services to and from Hastings. He advised that there would be a meeting of interested parish councils and proposed that this forum be allowed to take up the issue, to which councillors agreed. He also reported on the revised timetable introduced to cover street works in Cranbrook; he highlighted that buses would not go to the Co-Op car park as advertised because they were unable to manoeuvre there without grounding. A shuttle bus will operate between the car park and the bus drop-off point.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting? Minutes of meetings 19/06/14 and 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
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
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx. Chairman Perry said he planned to fix a meeting.
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting 28/08/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx. Councillor Buller said the open morning for play scheme would be taking place on 28th July and the scheme proper starting on 29th July.
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? Report of meetings 25/03/14 and 15/07/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx. Councillor Buller said an article would appear in the next Village Update about moving to on-line publication.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting 13/08/14. Report of meeting 16/07/14 awaited. 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>
11. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillors Ashby and Buller said they had

received comments about the rapid growth of vegetation. Councillors recognised that responsibility was often down to different parties and asked that the Group look at a plan for dealing with problem areas.

12. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx. Councillor Lain-Rose reported that Step Ahead would be working at the Youth Club and it was hoped that some activity in August would be possible.

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? Minutes of meeting 03/06/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting? Minutes of meetings 26/06/14 and 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? 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, NK, PS) Next meeting?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 24/09/14. Minutes of meeting 17/07/14 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 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? Report of meeting 08/07/14 awaited. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Spearink said that he and Councillor Kemp had attended the meeting on 8th July. The Clerk advised that the minutes had just been received and would be circulated for the next meeting of Full Council.
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
13. Speed Watch (JB) <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx>. Councillor Buller advised that training for new volunteers was taking place.
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). Councillor Gosling said she had attended a successful IT day at the school.
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 progress on the Sainsbury's projects. It was advised that work on the factory and petrol station is targeted for completion this year. The factory needs to be finished before the main work on the supermarket can begin.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Gardner's report showed 7 crimes: 3 theft (although 1 subsequently reclassified as temporary misplacement); 1 attempted burglary; 1 burglary; 2 criminal damage.