



## STAPLEHURST EMERGENCY HELP TEAM

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 11 October 2018  
at The Free Church, Staplehurst

**Present:** Andrew Watson (Chairman, Margaret Friswell, Bob Howse, Peter Jeffery, Mira Martin, Bill Piper, Lauren Rodwell,

**Apologies:** Joan Buller, Jason Bardell, Sonia Cserjen, Sally French-Griffiths, Paul Linaker, Erika Lock, Maria Norris, John Parsons-Smith, Rory Silkin.

**Chairman's Welcome and Remarks:** Barbara Keel has offered her resignation. Andrew expressed the thanks of SEHT for her work.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed.

### Matters Arising:

1. Acorn Hire is available as a source for generators in an emergency.
2. Andrew presented a draft Personal Emergency Plan. This is a set of suggestions for households to keep ready for emergencies, such as corded phones and items of food. A couple of items were added.  
  
It was agreed that it is now ready to be published, and it should be circulated to all households in the parish by means of the next Village Update.
3. The recent exercise was discussed. Bob and Mira were thanked for getting members of The Men's Shed to participate. While the number of "actors" attending was disappointing, it was agreed that it had been successful in that the team members worked with confidence.  
  
It was noted that there had been lack of clarity as to whether the exercise was to be triggered by phone-calls.  
  
The availability of wheelchairs was discussed, and it was agreed that wheelchairs are generally available at strategic points within Staplehurst.
4. Recruitment: see Bonfire Night below. Mira suggested a campaign involving punchy appeals (like "Would you help?" in illustrated situations) possibly with cartoons or illustrations. This was generally approved.
5. Equipment bags familiarization was deferred. However Lauren reminded us that the information pads are outdated, and she undertook to ask Guy Gardiner for replacements.  
  
Patrick Blunt's comment at the last meeting about familiarizing newcomers with equipment and procedures was noted.
6. Although neighbouring villages have been contacted about working with us, the response has been very disappointing. The chance of our being called to help or advise seem very small. Mira said that she shall try to raise some interest in Marden where Staplehurst members could volunteer to be involved.
8. Telephone Tree: The recent practice run had worked quite well. [Peter Spearink has now requested to be removed from the tree.]

**Agenda:**

Bonfire Night: It was agreed to have a lost children's stall again, and to use it to promote SEHT and to recruit. Laureen to contact the organizers. Action: to ask for help from members. (Andrew).

Andrew

Vulnerable residents: Andrew has done quite a lot of work on this. He outlined his suggested procedures for helping vulnerable residents in an emergency, and he has drafted an item on the topic for the Village Update. However Guy Gardner (on behalf of KRF) has expressed a lack of interest in the plan. Andrew will be addressing the Parish Council on the topic at its next meeting.

**Any Other Business:** None

**Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 7th March 2019 at 7:30.