

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at 7.55 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ashby, Buller, Burnham, who was in the Chair, Butcher, Claridge, Gosling, Kelly, Lain-Rose, Manning, Sharp, Spearink. Councillor Perry arrived during Item 6.2. Assistant Parish Clerk: Mrs DA Jenkins

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Kemp, Reardon and Silkin whose apologies were accepted.

**URGENT ITEMS:** - No items requested.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS** regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan.

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** Pages 1462-1465 of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Buller, approved by Councillors, signed by Vice-Chairman Burnham and made available at [http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCES**

1. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, the list of accounts for payment was approved. Councillor Kelly abstained.
2. Summation of Accounts to 10 September 2015 (for noting). Noted by councillors and published at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx).
3. Quotations for Repair of Bell Lane Toilet Door – for decision. Proposed by Councillor Buller, seconded by Councillor Gosling and agreed by Councillors to make an insurance claim.

**CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-**

1. Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan & Developer News
  - a) Update from Steering Group re Reg. 16 Plan. Councillor Buller reported that MBC had confirmed an SEA was not required. Chris Berry had suggested a meeting at Maidstone House to discuss MBC's plans for the Reg. 16 Consultation. The Clerk is to ask for further clarification of the meeting. Councillor Buller requested Councillors support for the RSG to draft a leaflet, to be delivered to all households in the village, explaining the referendum. Councillors agreed but requested that the leaflet be approved by Full Council prior to distribution.
  - b) Update on MBC Draft Local Plan. Councillor Buller reported that the draft Reg. 18 Plan will soon be going out for consultation. Councillor Perry confirmed that the consultation will probably take place in October. He acknowledged that parts of the Local Plan will have to return to Reg. 18, whilst others will proceed to Reg. 19 which will be complete next year. Housing numbers are still being debated; the Objectively Assessed Need is 18,560 homes. Discussions on a lower target are ongoing. Councillor Perry confirmed that until the Local Plan has been approved developers have the upper hand.
  - c) Developer News – Review of any issues arising from Redrow Homes consultation. Councillor Buller reported that, following her suggestion, Redrow Homes had been

supportive of introducing bungalows into their housing scheme. However, MBC were opposed to the idea as Redrow Homes wished to reduce their affordable housing quota from 40% to 35% to accommodate the changes. Councillor Buller suggested the Parish Council lobby MBC regarding this issue. Councillor Burnham requested the item on the next Full Council agenda once further background information had been sought.

2. Borough Councillor Update. Councillor Perry stated that following Committee changes he had been appointed to MBC Planning Committee along with Councillor Martin Round. Councillor Perry had called in the Low Weald Landscape Area item after its inclusion as a Landscape of Local Value was turned down by Strategic Planning Committee. This will be discussed by Policy & Resources Committee on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Councillor Perry advised that the Neighbourhood Plan must remain in conformity with the Local Plan, and that Councillors should consider any new applications very carefully. He confirmed that Reg. 19 is largely technical; bodies such as KCC and Southern Water have a major influence.
3. Caretaker's Report. The Clerk reported that two new bins have been installed at Jubilee Field. The salt bin levels have been checked and confirmed full. Lots of rubbish, seven bags, was collected following the Queen's celebrations at Surrenden Field. The Clerk was asked to clarify whether the Caretaker collected this litter himself, from the field.
4. Footpath from Greenhill to Station Road – Report on investigations (for decision). Councillor Burnham noted that the land in question was not directly a concern of the Parish Council as it was owned by KCC. Councillor Buller confirmed that the Parish Council had requested a link to Lime Trees during the planning stages of the development and had decided not to pursue KCC when this didn't happen. The land had been forgotten by KCC and now formed part of residents' gardens. It was agreed nem con not to encourage KCC to extend the footpath. The Clerk is to write to the affected residents informing them of the Parish Council's decision.
5. KALC Events – Invitation to attend (for decision)
  - (a) Councillors' Information Day 14<sup>th</sup> October – Councillors to contact the Clerk if they wish to attend.
  - (b) Finance Conference 22<sup>nd</sup> October – As above.
6. Kent Highways Parish & Town Council Seminar 9<sup>th</sup> November – Invitation to attend (for decision). It was suggested that Councillor Reardon may wish to attend. The Clerk is to ask him.
7. Weald of Kent Protection Society – Nomination of local representative (for noting) Councillor Perry confirmed his agreement to be a contact.

#### **COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS** – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 30/10/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst\\_transport.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx)  
Councillor Spearink reported that the No. 5 bus service had seriously deteriorated and previously resolved issues with Arriva had resumed with children not having access to an already full bus and arriving late for school. Robert Patterson's successor had been contacted. Councillor Perry believed that in the past the committee had been successful and had engaged the help of Helen Grant MP. He would arrange another meeting in the next two weeks to see what could be done. Councillor Buller noted that Headcorn Station had a community board and asked if the Parish Council could write to Southeastern to request the same for Staplehurst. Councillor Burnham noted that a litter bin had previously been requested and should be requested again. He would find a suitable contact for a letter to be written.

2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 17/09/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc\\_emergency\\_planning\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx) Councillor Manning reported that the defibrillator would be fixed to the external wall of the Library during the second week of October and requested that notices referring to the location are sited. Councillors agreed and thanked Councillor Manning for his perseverance. Councillor Spearink confirmed that an SEHT meeting had taken place.
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, CC, TB, AG, PK, NK, RS, PS,) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](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](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx)
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx)
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 09/09/15 awaited. Councillor Spearink reported his attendance at a Destination Management Plan Meeting where he chose to join the Countryside Group. He aims to persuade local businesses to join forces in promoting each other's companies which could be added to the MBC tourism website.
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink had sent Councillors photos of young adders seen at the site confirming that breeding is taking place. He suggested asking the Health Centre if they carried an antidote to bites as residents will be encouraged to use the area. Councillor Gosling believed the Parish Council should place notices informing people of the adders' existence. Councillor Burnham suggested warning SECamb.
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth\\_activities\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx) The Clerk reported that the end of scheme forms had been completed and sent to MBC as requested. Councillor Buller requested that an item is on the next agenda following a meeting with the Playscheme team.
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting 22/09/15. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity\\_website.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx) Councillor Buller noted that there had been a lack of volunteers to deliver the Village Updates due to holidays. Councillor Ashby's car was hit whilst delivering at Pagehurst Road meaning she was unable to deliver the rest of her round. Councillors offered various suggestions regarding future publications and deliveries. Councillor Buller will put these to the Publicity & Website team at their meeting tomorrow. Councillor Buller stated that she would be unable to edit the Update due out on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015. She suggested that if no-one else was able to take responsibility the edition is cancelled.
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 07/10/15. Reports of meetings 05/08/15 and 09/09/15 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](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 08/10/15. Report of meeting 10/09/15 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_redevelopment\\_group.aspx](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> Councillor Manning asked if a meeting date had been agreed. The Group would arrange a date.
15. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx). Councillor Butcher asked if MBC could empty all bins at the Parade after noticing they emptied the bin outside of NWB. It was confirmed that MBC own the bins by Lloyds Chemist and adjacent to the seat by the Library; the bin in the lobby of the SPAR belongs to the shop; and the remaining bins are owned by Wisprole who pay Mitie to empty them regularly. Wisprole also employ a local person to sweep the area three days a week. Councillor Buller stated that she helps to clean up on the other four days if possible.
16. Youth Club (PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx)  
Councillor Lain-Rose thanked the Committee for organising the Queen's event day and for putting on a spectacular firework display. Councillors agreed. He encouraged Councillors to help attract new committee members.
2. Churchyard Liaison (PB, PK) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups\\_2.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx) Councillor Kelly advised that next year's budget will be discussed imminently.
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 06/10/15.  
[http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn\\_aerodrome.aspx](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx)
5. KALC Area Committee (RS, PK, PB, JP) Next meeting 30/09/15.  
[http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent\\_association\\_of\\_local\\_councils.aspx](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 AGM 23/09/15.  
[http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe\\_day\\_centre.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx)
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB, NK) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, NK, AS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting?  
<http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Perry reported that at the meeting arranged for 10 November proposals to alter the course of the river will be advised.
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 14/10/15.  
[http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient\\_participation\\_group\\_at\\_health\\_centre.aspx](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 (NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 27/07/15 awaited.
19. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (MA, PB) Next meeting? Report of meetings 11/11/14, 03/12/14, 06/01/15 and 24/02/15 awaited. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_trust.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx)
20. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot\\_hers.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx)

Chairman.....

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Before the meeting a representative of the Carnival & Fete Committee asked for any assistance the Parish Council could give in attracting new members as their numbers had diminished.