

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 15th December 2014 at 7.45 p.m.

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

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

URGENT ITEM: - Councillors agreed to take one item of urgent business in respect of correspondence of historic interest.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Buller and Burnham declared they had been lobbied about local transport. Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Changes to the Register of Interests – Councillor Manning declared that he had retired as a Kent Police Authority Independent Custody Visitor and as an SSAFA consultant.

Interests in items on the agenda – Councillors Butcher, Kelly and Sharp declared an interest in the application for a licence to trade at the Village Centre.

Requests for dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1396-1399 of 1st December 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Gosling, seconded by Councillor Buller, approved by councillors, signed by the Chairman and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. Councillors Butcher and Green abstained.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

1. Summation of Accounts to 5th December 2014. Noted by councillors and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.
2. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Kemp, seconded by Councillor Gosling the list of accounts for payment was approved (Councillor Kelly abstaining). Councillors expressed thanks to the businesses which had generously made donations towards the cost of the Christmas Lights: Homeleigh Timber & Building Supplies Ltd, Murcatto Wines, Radfords Estate Agents, Spuds & Buds and W J Crouch Butchers Limited.
3. Surrenden Playing Field – Tree Work Quotations (for decision). Councillor Burnham outlined three quotes for work on trees on the west side of Surrenden Playing Field, noting that two quotes recommended felling of an oak tree in the north-west corner. Proposed by Chairman Silkin, seconded by Councillor Ashby, councillors voted to accept the quotation from Forestry First for £1,595 for work on the line of trees with the following additional comments: fruiting bodies not to be removed; take the tree in the north-west corner identified as T6 to below ground level and grind the stump; the Surrenden Playing Field group to consider the possible on-site use of the felled wood.
4. Surrenden Playing Field – 2015 maintenance: quotation for approval. Proposed by Councillor Burnham, seconded by Councillor Kemp, councillors voted nem con to accept the quotation dated 14th November 2014 from Landscape Services for grass-cutting at Surrenden Playing Field, noting that the total sum of £872.24 represented a 2% increase on 2014.
5. Action for Market Towns – Correspondence (for noting). Councillors noted the correspondence relating to the organisation's voluntary liquidation. In respect of the

unexpired part of the Parish Council's 2014-15 membership they decided to take no further action.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Urgent Item – Councillor Spearink read to the meeting correspondence received from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum relating to a letter sent to the US ambassador by representatives of the Staplehurst community in 1865 on the occasion of the assassination of then President Lincoln. Councillors agreed to discuss a response at the next meeting of Full Council.
2. Neighbourhood Plan – Councillors Buller and Burnham reported that the Steering Group was continuing to review consultation comments and hoped to complete the task by the start of January.
3. Caretaker's Report – the Clerk advised that he had taken delivery of a new hedge trimmer for the caretaker's use.
4. KCC Highways and Transportation Survey – Proposed response (for comment). Councillors discussed a draft response and agreed, subject to comments on road conditions and safety being added to sections 2 and 4 respectively, that it should be sent to Kent Highways.
5. Street Trading Licence Application – Mr Luca Leonardi T/A Pizza D'Onore (for comment). Proposed by Councillor Buller, seconded by Councillor Ashby, councillors voted to express to Maidstone Borough Council their support of the application. Councillors Butcher, Gosling, Kelly and Sharp abstained.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 05/12/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx Councillor Buller said residents were still expressing serious concerns about the bus service. Councillor Spearink said that a meeting with Helen Grant and interested parties would take place on 9th January.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 27/01/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, TB, AG, SG, PK, NK, 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, SL, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting 06/01/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx The Clerk's report of MBC's Debrief event was noted.
8. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Report of meeting 30/09/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, JB, AS) Next meeting? Minutes of meeting 15/10/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 18/11/14 will be circulated for discussion at Full Council on 05/01/15. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
11. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx.
12. 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? Minutes of meeting 07/10/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx

4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting January 2015 (date t.b.c).
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 18/02/15. Minutes of meeting 03/12/14 posted at
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? Reports of meetings 24/09/14 and 20/11/14 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 15/01/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 08/12/14 posted at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting? Report of meetings 02/09/14 and 09/12/14 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 Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS) Next meeting?
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (NK) Next meeting? Report of meeting 02/10/14 awaited.
18. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (PB) Next meeting? Report of meetings 11/11/14 and 03/12/14 awaited.
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
19. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM:

After the meeting Mrs Louise Brice said that she wanted to gather comments about service issues from bus users ahead of the planned stakeholder meeting in January.