

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 2nd November 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Buller, Butcher, Kelly and Kemp whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - No items requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillor Ashby declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan and Allotments.

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 1474-1477 of 19th October 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Ashby, 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, Local Plan & Planning Issues
 - a) NP Reg. 16 Consultation & Information Event 18/11/15 - Update from Steering Group. Councillors NOTED the written report covering information about how to comment on the Neighbourhood Plan during the consultation, publicity for the event on 18th November, scheduled discussion of the plan by MBC Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee on 10th November and receipt of profiles of potential examiners. Councillors AGREED to consider comments and recommendations from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and FERIA Urbanism about the shortlisted examiners.
 - b) MBC Local Plan – Update on Reg 18 Consultation. Councillors NOTED that the Parish Council's formal comments on the October 2015 consultation had been submitted to MBC and could be viewed on the consultation website.
 - c) Station Improvements & S106 Funds – (i) Report on meeting with MBC – Chairman Silkin explained that a meeting had been held with the MBC Planning Officer following information received that MBC was in discussion with KCC and Southeastern Railways about Section 106 contributions and station improvements. Councillors NOTED the report of the meeting. (ii) Invitation to submit comments – Chairman Silkin REQUESTED Councillors to submit ideas for improvements appropriate for S106 funding to the Parish Office within one week for collation and forwarding to MBC.
2. Borough Councillor Update – Councillor Perry stated that MBC's allocation of four weeks rather than six for the October 2015 Regulation 18 consultation on the Local Plan had been raised as an issue. He informed councillors that on 5th November MBC's Policy & Resources Committee would discuss the future of the shared planning service. He INVITED any councillors interested in joining the Parish Charter Task & Finish Group to contact him.
3. Caretaker's Report – The Clerk reported that the Caretaker had removed a camp bed dumped at the skate park and that CCTV footage was being investigated. Councillor

- Spearink asked if the condition of railings on Church Hill could be improved, which is to be taken up with Kent Highways. Councillor Gosling asked that the pavement steps be swept.
4. Annual Village Clean-Up – Proposal for 2016 event for approval. Councillors AGREED that the 2016 clean-up should take place on 12th March, with 19th March as a reserve date.
 5. Consultations
 - a) KCC Draft Budget 2016-17 – Councillors NOTED the question from KCC about how much Council Tax respondents would be willing to pay for KCC services. They AGREED not to respond in the name of the Parish Council but encouraged individuals to respond.
 - b) Street Name – Consultation by MBC relating to land at rear of former Bell Inn. Councillors NOTED that the developer had suggested 'Bell Place' as a name. After discussion about retaining the Bell Lane connection whilst creating an element of differentiation they AGREED to recommend 'Old Bell Place' to the MBC Officer.
 6. KALC Community Awards Scheme 2016 – Invitation to adopt the scheme. Councillors NOTED that KALC had launched the 2016 version of its community award scheme and that the Parish Council had not adopted previous versions. They AGREED not to adopt the scheme for 2016 and to review the position again for 2017.
 7. KALC Finance Conference – Report on conference held on 22nd October. Chairman Silkin informed councillors that he would circulate a written report of the conference.
 8. MBC Planning Training – Invitation to send two representatives. Councillors NOTED the content of the programme of planning seminars organised by MBC. Chairman Silkin said that he thought it would be beneficial for the parish council to send representatives and REQUESTED councillors to advise the Parish Office by 6th November of which sessions they wished to attend.
 9. Memorials – Report from Cllr Spearink on Future Maintenance of Memorials in Staplehurst (Min 1381). Councillor Spearink reported that he had spoken to the family of the late Mr Ted Sergison about the memorials at the railway station, Grave Lane and Chickenden Lane and that the family had no objection to the Parish Council's maintenance of them. Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, councillors AGREED to list the memorials in the Parish Council records for future maintenance.
 10. Parish Surgery – (i) Report on 31st October: Councillor Spearink reported that he had attended the surgery in the library with Councillor Perry. Subjects raised were Stanley Farm, solar farms and parking at Church Green. (ii) Appointment of representatives for November & December: AGREED that Councillor Ashby will attend the surgery on 28th November and Councillor Sharp will attend on 19th December.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Report of meeting 30/10/15 awaited.
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx. Councillor Spearink gave a verbal report of the meeting on 30th October which had discussed S106 contributions to Arriva arising from development in Cranbrook. He said there were identified problems with bus-train connections.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 20/01/16. Report of meeting 21/10/15 awaited. Report of meeting 17/09/15 posted at
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, CC, TB, AG, PK, NK, 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, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting 06/11/15. Report of meeting 23/10/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Economic & Tourism Development (PS) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink reported that the Countryside Group would be meeting soon. Councillor Perry is to represent MBC in the Group.
8. Oliver Road Open Space (PK, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink said he would co-ordinate activity to help progress towards transfer of the site to the Parish Council. A meeting is to be arranged with Taylor Wimpey.
9. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting? Report of meeting 22/10/15 to be posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx Financial Report (for noting) and proposals for (i) funding payment to Play Place (ii) in principle agreement for a 2016 scheme (for decision). Councillors NOTED the report and (i) AGREED to make a funding payment of £1,561 to Play Place and (ii) AGREED in principle to the organisation of a play scheme in summer 2016.
10. Publicity & Website Group (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx
11. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 04/11/15. Reports of meetings 09/09/15 and 07/10/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
12. Staff Group (JB, PK, SL, BM, JP) Next meeting? Councillor Lain-Rose said he was trying to arrange a meeting of the Group in the coming weeks.
13. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group (TB, AG, SL) Next meeting 12/11/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_redevelopment_group.aspx Councillor Lain-Rose said he intended to bring the Group's recommendation about a survey of the Village Centre to the next meeting of Full Council.
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? Discussion of recommendations arising from meeting 30/09/15 (posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx). Councillor Sharp discussed the recommendations in the Group's report. Councillors AGREED: (i) the Group should take forward sowing poppy seeds on a section of the Marden Road verge west of Thatcher Road; (ii) the Group should meet Growing Concern to discuss ideas for the planters; (iii) if the Group were to draw up a proposal for a garden area on the Youth Club land this would be considered by Council; (iv) they were in principle content for the Group to undertake planting in the areas of the village 'welcome signs' but ownership of the sites should be established and permissions obtained.
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. Report of meeting 06/10/15 posted at 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? Report of meeting 30/09/15 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 22/10/15. Report of meeting 23/09/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, NK, AS) Next meeting 19/11/15. Report of meeting 24/09/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx

11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting 10/11/15. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillors Perry and Spearink said they would be attending the next meeting of the Group.
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 (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
20. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident said that he had advised Taylor Wimpey on ecological aspects of the Oliver Road green space area and that he would be pleased to join a group of volunteers to take forward management of the site.