

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 3rd June 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Burnham, Butcher, Gosling, Lain, Manning, Reardon, Sharp, Silkin, Spearink and Perry who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr MJ Westwood

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

URGENT ITEMS: - No items were requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Burnham and Lain declared they had been lobbied about the Parade.
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 1267-1271 of 13th May 2013 were proposed for approval by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Lain, approved by councillors nem con, signed by Chairman Perry and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Caretaker's Reports – the Clerk advised the Caretaker had undertaken hedge trimming and litter collection. Councillor Butcher asked that the Caretaker record where large amounts of alcohol-related litter are found.
2. Carnival & Fete – Councillors agreed to use the Parish Council stall to provide information about its local services and about subjects such as MBC's land call and Neighbourhood Plan developments. Councillor Burnham will source photographs. The Parish Office will draw up a rota and councillors were requested to volunteer to man the stall. Councillors agreed to invite the Community Warden and Chair of RSG.
3. Churchyard Agreement – Councillor Silkin invited councillors to ask any questions about his paper for which he was thanked by Chairman Perry. The Chairman advised that he and Vice-Chairman Kelly would be holding an exploratory discussion with the Rector about the Churchyard on 6th June.
4. Health Centre – Councillor Silkin advised that he was awaiting information from the PPG about a proposed public meeting with Malling Health.
5. Jubilee Field Gates – Proposed by Councillor Manning, seconded by Councillor Lain, councillors voted nem con to accept a quotation of £460 from Epic Engineering Limited for repair of the Jubilee Field Gates.
6. KALC Clerks' Conference – Councillors noted the Clerk's report and expressed particular interest in the different approach to the Annual Parish Meeting described in the presentation by Ticehurst, Flimwell & Stonegate PC and agreed to consider it ahead of 2014's meeting.
7. KALC Learning & Development Survey – The Clerk requested councillors to advise him of any comments on KALC's questions within two weeks.
8. KCC Public Rights of Way – KCC's letter of 20th May relating to its proposed Vegetation Clearance Programme was noted by councillors. The Clerk advised that he had sent copies to the Countryside Warden and the Staplehurst Footpath Group.
9. KCC Street Lighting – Councillors noted without comment KCC's proposals about reduced lighting hours under Phase 2 of its Safe & Sensible Street Lighting programme.

Councillor Butcher asked about the possibility of upgrading the Parish Council's Headcorn Road lights to KCC adoptable standard, which would facilitate consideration of speed limits. The Clerk advised that the Parish Office had just reviewed the locations of the Council's street lights and was now engaged with MBC and KCC to establish what would be entailed in upgrading them.

10. Localism –KALC's letter of 16th May to DCLG and NALC Chairman's comments of 20th May on his meeting with the Minister were noted by councillors.
11. Maidstone Borough Council – Request for suggestions to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillors noted this public invitation.
12. Neighbourhood Plan – Following circulation earlier in the day by the Chair of RSG of a proposal for consultancy work on a Neighbourhood Plan, Chairman Perry asked councillors to read it for discussion at the next full council meeting. Councillors agreed to ask the RSG to document what it considered to be the basic issues and points that should be covered by any consultant; Chairman Perry undertook to take this up with the Chair of RSG.
13. South East Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan: an invitation to comment during consultation and details of public exhibitions were noted by councillors.
14. Supermarkets Update – Chairman Perry recorded his thanks to resident Mr Dave Staunton-Lambert for his speech at MBC's Planning Committee on 16th May. He also thanked residents Jenny Fairfax, Mike Pounds-Longhurst and John Kelly and Councillors Buller and Kelly for their support. He said he had no news about Tesco's further intentions.
15. Surrenden Playing Field Ownership – Councillors noted and thanked Councillor Silkin for his report tracing the ownership of Surrenden Playing Field.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Report of meeting 19/04/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx Councillor Burnham said he would provide a written report about the KCC Rail Summit on 20th May. Councillors noted Councillor Green's report on the Summit's discussion of the station car park.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 13/06/13. Report of meeting 08/04/13 awaited http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx Councillor Butcher advised that SEHT had been included in the UpRockin Event Management Plan.
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, SG, RS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx Chairman Perry undertook to arrange a meeting of the Group.
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) Next meeting 25/06/13 http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx The Clerk's report was noted.
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Report of meeting 21/05/13 awaited http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Reardon reported that following completion of the summer Village Update work on the next edition would be starting soon.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Report from KALC Planning Conference 23/03/13 awaited. Report of meeting 15/05/13 to be posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Report of meeting 23/05/13 awaited <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Reardon reported that the Group had discussed the importance of addressing the lease of the field, due to expire in 2019. Councillor Silkin undertook to produce a report on the possible approaches to adopt.

Councillor Reardon said he had received from the Clerk information that would enable some maintenance and drainage issues to be progressed.

11. UpRockin 2013 (JP, PB) Report of meeting 29/05/13 awaited. Next meeting 12/06/13. Councillor Butcher appealed for volunteers from councillors, friends and families to help run the event on the day; contact should be made with the Parish Office.
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillors resolved that a letter should be sent to owners of the Parade about the condition of the area behind the shops, copying it for information to ward borough councillors and to MBC Environmental Enforcement team.

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) Report of meeting 24/04/13. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx
2. Churchyard Liaison (PB, PK) Next meeting 06/06/13 (JP & PK with Rector) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx
3. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx
4. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 04/06/13. Minutes of meeting 26/02/13 to be posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
5. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting 27/06/13. Report of meeting 09/05/13 to be posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx Councillors agreed in principle to accommodate insurance of the field mower under the Council's insurance policy subject to users bearing the additional premium and the excess arising from any claim and to confirmation from insurers of what specific terms and conditions would apply.
6. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Next meeting 19/06/13 (AGM). http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Report of meeting 29/05/13 awaited.
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 18/07/13. Report of meeting 23/05/13 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 24/07/13. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Report of meeting 05/03/13 awaited. Next meeting 18/06/13. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Speed Watch (JB) Next activity 11/06/13. <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx>
13. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB) Next meeting?
14. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS, PS) Report of meeting 13/03/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
15. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (SL, BM, JR)
16. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting 04/06/13. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
17. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: No items were raised.