

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at United Reformed Church on
Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Burnham, Claridge, Lain-Rose, Manning, Riordan, Smith, Spearink and Silkin who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Gosling, Perry, Reardon, Sharp and Whittle.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

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 Minute pages 1607-1610 of 3rd April 2017 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. Councillors Claridge and Smith abstained.

FINANCE REPORTS:-

1. Accounts for payment - for approval. Proposed by Councillor Buller, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, the list of accounts for payment was APPROVED. Payments for the period 9th March to 31st March totalled £8,123.70; receipts for the period were £38,233.12 (Parish Council) and £0.19 (Village Centre Contingency).
2. Summation of Accounts – as at 31 March 2017 (for noting). NOTED by Councillors and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.
3. Parish Services Scheme 2017-18 – Notification of confirmed payment and proposal to sign funding agreement (for decision). Councillors NOTED that under the scheme MBC would pay to the Parish Council £9,335 during 2017-18 to cover expenditure on grounds maintenance, noticeboards and public conveniences. Councillors RESOLVED that the Funding Agreement be signed on behalf of the Parish Council.

CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:

1. Consultation – DCLG Consultation on New Planning Proposals (closing date 02/05/17) (Min 1604) – Oral report by Councillor Burnham. Councillor Burnham discussed his reading of the white paper 'Fixing our broken housing market' which he said set out proposals to help increase the supply of housing. The proposals included modifications to the planning process, steps to ensure local plans are kept up to date, streamlined environmental licensing procedures, a simplified approach to planning conditions and developer contributions and tighter rules to encourage use of granted planning consent. Councillors thanked Councillor Burnham for his review.
2. Mayor's Reception 05/05/17 – Invitation (for response by 28/04/17). Councillor Lain-Rose said he would attend the reception. Other interested councillors were invited to inform the Clerk before 27th April.
3. Parish Surgery – (i) Report on parish surgeries held 8 & 15 April (RS/TB). Subjects raised at the surgeries were: the proposed Post Office relocation; a reduced amount of amenity land associated with the land south of Henhurst Farm site in the MBC Local Plan. (ii) Appointment of representatives for future surgeries: 22nd April - Councillor Claridge; 29th April - Councillor Buller (previously appointed); 6th May - Councillor Ashby; 13th May - Councillors Buller and Smith; 20th May no surgery due to Annual Parish Meeting on the same day.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS (from Committee/Groups/Office on specific issues or as regular update)

1. Clerk's Report – the Clerk thanked the deputy caretaker for covering for the village caretaker during his leave. He reported that draft year-end financial statements were almost complete and thanked the retiring RFO for her guidance during the handover of duties to the Deputy Clerk. He also reported: he was arranging for servicing of the Stryker CCTV cameras; he had completed agreements for use of the library premises for parish surgeries and training; he was engaged in continuing discussion with KCC about a funding agreement for the Community Warden's Men's Shed project; Facebook training for members would be held in the library on 24th April. Further to the Parish Council's decision to book two stalls at Staplehurst Fete (Min 1607) he asked councillors for ideas about the stalls' content.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
 - a) Annual Parish Meeting 2017 – Update on arrangements (Min 1601, 1603-4). The Clerk advised that there were three confirmed stallholders for the pre-meeting session. Councillors AGREED the following actions: (i) Hush Heath Winery and Pets' World to be invited to have stalls; (ii) Posters to be displayed on noticeboards and roadside to complement the formal agenda notice; (iii) Chairman Silkin to discuss further promotion with Councillor Whittle; (iv) Councillor Claridge to consider catering requirements in the light of anticipated attendance numbers at the end of first week in May.
 - b) Bus Stop Signage – Proposal to investigate installation of real-time signage (JP) (for decision). Item deferred.
 - c) Communications Group – Proposed Terms of Reference (Mins 1604 & 1609) (for update / decision). Chairman Silkin that he was in the middle of reviewing the terms of reference and he would circulate his review once completed. Further discussion was deferred.
 - d) Neighbourhood Plan Review Group – Reports of meetings 09/03/17 and 05/04/17 (for noting). NOTED by Councillors and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx. *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow a contribution from the Chair of the NPRG.* The Chair of NPRG reported that it was clear that the Group had an important role in ensuring the Neighbourhood Plan was a live document. She also reported that the Group was reviewing the modifications to the Draft Local Plan which were out for public consultation. *Chairman Silkin reopened the meeting.* Councillor Claridge sought clarification about the status of the Parish Council objective covering Sainsbury's supermarket. It was confirmed that it was a stand-alone objective, although it was clearly prudent to liaise with those working on other objectives where relevant links were identified.
 - e) Station Regeneration Group – Report of meeting 29/03/17 (JB) (for noting). Councillor Buller's report was NOTED and published at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>. Councillors AGREED to small incidental expenditure to obtain maps and land-ownership information. Councillor Buller said she planned to seek a meeting with MBC to discuss developer contributions.
 - f) Wimpey Field – Report on work and proposals for disposal of wood and vegetation (PS) (for decision). Councillor Spearink discussed his report of 10th April titled 'Disposal of Wood and Vegetation'. Councillors NOTED that Councillor Spearink was in contact with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership about the possibility of learning how to create 'dead hedges'. Councillor Spearink said that he would report back on the subject, including the feasibility of running a training session costing £255. Proposed by Councillor Burnham, seconded by Councillor Riordan, councillors RESOLVED to spend up to £100 on rakes and post-hole tools. Councillor Spearink

commented that Taylor Wimpey still had building materials on the site, which were related to the proposed crossing works and causing an obstruction.

3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only

- a) Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Plan – Report on Visioning Event 23/03/17 (JB & SL-R). Councillor Buller reported that the Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Neighbourhood Plan team had welcomed the visit by Staplehurst representatives. She explained the team was reviewing sites submitted to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as potential development areas. She highlighted that development in the area would generate more traffic through Staplehurst, particularly to the station, which supported a case for some part of relevant developer contributions benefiting Staplehurst.

REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNCILS, AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS for noting:-

- 1. Borough Councillor's Oral Report – Item deferred.
- 2. PCSO's Report – Chairman Silkin read PCSO Gardner's report for the period 19/03/17 – 13/04/17, which showed six crimes: three burglaries; one theft and two criminal damage.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS (written reports for noting):-

No reports.

URGENT MATTERS (at Chairman's discretion, information only items for noting or for decision at a future meeting)

No items were raised.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident suggested that the Parish Council inform the village what would stop if the Parish Council did not carry out its functions.