

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 21st October 2013 at 8.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Butcher whose reason for apology was accepted. Councillor Lain-Rose was absent.

URGENT ITEMS: - Councillors agreed to take one item of urgent business relating to consultation by MBC on a licence application.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Ashby, Buller and Spearink declared they had been lobbied about buses and supermarkets. Councillors Buller, Burnham and Spearink declared they had been lobbied about the Village Centre. Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Changes to the Register of Interests – Councillor Kemp declared a new interest in a property in the parish.

Interests in items on the agenda – Councillor Kelly declared an interest in the Village Centre.

Requests for dispensation – no new items submitted.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1300-1303 of 7th October 2013 were approved subject to amendment on page 1303 by the insertion of the words 'asked if it' before the words 'was now held in a separate account' in the first paragraph Public Forum. Proposed for approval by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Ashby, the minutes as amended were approved by councillors nem con, signed by Chairman Perry and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

ACCOUNTS & FINANCES

1. Summation of Accounts to 11th October was circulated and noted.
2. Accounts for payment for approval. Proposed by Councillor Burnham, seconded by Councillor Manning, the list of accounts for payment was approved nem con.
3. Financial Information: Chairman Perry presented the revised summation format previously circulated to councillors. Proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Silkin, councillors voted nem con to accept the proposed format and to publish each future monthly summation on the village website. Chairman Perry discussed a draft statement of understanding between the Parish Council and the Village Centre Management Committee relating to the Village Centre Contingency Fund. Proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Ashby councillors voted to send the statement to the Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Urgent Items – The Clerk discussed a communication from MBC Licensing Office requesting comments on an application by Pizza Cucina for a trial street trading licence. Councillors expressed concern that the trading could add to litter at the Parade and that it would be competing with local business rate-paying establishments. They commented that the application should be more precise about where the vehicle would be parked

and specifically that it should not be outside domestic dwellings. A suggestion was made that the Village Centre could be considered as a possible location. Councillors asked to be consulted about further discussions.

2. Neighbourhood Plan – Chairman Perry closed the meeting to allow contributions from the public. The Chair of the Rural Settlement Group spoke of the success and the energy of the Design Forum which had increased awareness of the Plan and the issues facing Staplehurst. He said the RSG had reviewed the Forum and drawn up a series of possible actions and recommendations. A lengthy discussion took place about these actions, particularly how and what to publish as a communication of what had been achieved. Chairman Perry reopened the meeting. Councillors agreed to publish the concept drawing presented at the end of the third day and a digest of the slide show to enable the wider public to understand the ideas developed at the three day Design Forum. They agreed that publication should take the form of an A3 insert in the Village Update at a cost of £349 supported by two pages of narrative, supplemented by posting the concept drawing and slideshow on the village website. Councillors further agreed that the Parish Council was not endorsing development of any of the sites marked as possible locations for housing or economic development and that such decisions would only be made at later stages in the consultation and planning process. They agreed that the concept drawing and narrative should clearly carry these caveats. Councillors agreed to write to schools that had participated in the event and to refer the following actions to the Neighbourhood Plan project team to meet at the earliest opportunity: to decide on the process to check local support for findings so far; to decide on the process to focus on key aspects of the findings so far; to seek further guidance from FERIA Urbanism on the next steps. Noting the increasing incidence of discussions with developers Councillors confirmed that when participating in such meetings Councillors must be clear about their status as members of the Parish Council and be open in reporting back to the Council. Discussion of a question about Sainsbury's S106 contribution was deferred. Councillors recorded their thanks to many people who had helped with the Design Forum and agreed to write to Sobell Lodge, the Village Centre Management Committee and the Women's Institute.
3. Caretaker's Reports – Deferred.
4. Churchyard Agreement – Chairman Perry said there were no new developments to report.
5. County Councillor Meeting – Chairman Perry said that matters arising from the meeting would be discussed by Finance Group on 22nd October.
6. Kenward Trust – An invitation to the Trust's AGM and presentation on 19th November was noted.
7. Library Surgery – Councillor Buller reported that the main issue raised at the surgery had been the planning application for the proposed solar farm at Great Pagehurst.
8. Marden Road – Councillors agreed to a proposal from KCC Highways and Transportation to mark the gateway for an extended 30mph limit with one wooden post and one white painted gate with signs.
9. Poyntell Road – Councillors noted without comment the proposed MBC order relating to prohibition of parking on the footway or verge.
10. Remembrance Day Parade – Correspondence from the Royal British Legion was noted.
11. Supermarkets – Councillor Kelly advised that Sainsbury's was pressing DK Holdings for progress with the proposed new factory. The Clerk advised that MBC's consultation letter on Tesco's planning application had been received.
12. West Kent Wheels 2 Work – Councillors noted the new moped loan scheme funded by KCC.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 06/12/13 http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
Councillor Spearink advised that he and Councillor Manning would be meeting the schools' bus group and the County Councillor next week. Councillor Burnham said he had attended the rail stakeholders' forum from which it was clear that Network Rail would proceed with its own plans for the station if the Tesco application were to be unsuccessful this time.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting?
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
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
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, SL, JR) Next meeting 22/10/13
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
7. Playscheme (TB, JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting?
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx The next Village Update was covered under discussion of the Neighbourhood Plan.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Next meeting 13/11/13.
Report of meeting 16/10/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
Chairman Perry advised that Councillors Burnham and Kelly would be meeting representatives of MBC to discuss the freehold of the field on 28th October. Councillor Buller reported that she had spoken to the PCSO about beer cans on the field.
11. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting?
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillors expressed their appreciation to the Staplehurst Society for its offer of a financial contribution towards the cost of maintaining the planters.

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx The financial statement was noted.
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 04/03/14. Report of meeting 01/10/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting 05/12/13. Report of meeting 03/10/13 to be posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Report of meeting 25/09/13 awaited
http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx Chairman Perry advised he would be attending a KALC meeting with representatives of MBC on 7th November.
6. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) – Next meeting? Report of meeting 04/09/13 awaited.
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 29/05/13 awaited.
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 21/11/13. 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 21/11/13. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 03/12/13. Report of meeting 08/10/13 posted at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Speed Watch (JB) <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx>
13. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB) Next meeting?
14. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS, PS) Next meeting 30/10/13. Minutes of previous meetings at 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 12/11/13. Minutes of meeting 10/09/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
17. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx
18. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? Report of AGM held 21/08/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: The Clerk confirmed in response to a question that details of the planter costs had been sent to the Staplehurst Society. Councillor Buller said she had been advised that an employee in a shop at the Parade had received a parking ticket there; she observed the bottle bank had been removed from Bell Lane and that the Martyrs' Memorial plinth had been repaired.