

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 3rd February 2014 at 7.20 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Burnham, Butcher, Gosling, Green, Kelly, Kemp, Lain-Rose (from Neighbourhood Plan), Manning, Sharp, Silkin, Spearink and Perry who was in the Chair.

Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillor Reardon whose reason for apology was accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: - No items were requested.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:

Lobbying – Councillors Buller and Perry declared they had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan and the local bus service. Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Health Centre. Councillors Perry and Spearink declared they had been lobbied about the WW1 Centenary.

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 1324-1326 of 20th January 2014 were proposed for approval by Councillor Kemp, seconded by Councillor Spearink, 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. Neighbourhood Plan – *Councillor Lain-Rose arrived at this point. Chairman Perry closed the meeting to allow contributions from the public.* The Chair of Rural Settlement Group commented on a successful consultation event, with 203 people signed in on Friday and 155 over the weekend. He encouraged people to complete questionnaires, preferably on-line, or in paper form at the Library. Councillors thanked the Village Centre, the WI and Sobell Lodge for their assistance in holding the event. *Chairman Perry reopened the meeting.* He advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would meet on 11th February.
2. WW1 Centenary - Commemoration Proposal. Councillor Spearink reported that he had discussed ideas with architect Richard Hawkes. Councillors discussed possible sites and agreed that a working group be formed of council representatives and interested residents; Councillor Spearink volunteered to organise a meeting.
3. Caretaker's Report – the Clerk reported the permanent Caretaker had returned from leave.
4. Chapel Lane – Resident's Correspondence with Kent Highways. Chairman Perry agreed to take up the issues relating to the condition of the lane with County Councillor Hotson and Kent Highways.
5. Churchyard Agreement – Chairman Perry reported that progress was being made towards concluding the new agreement.
6. Event Management – MBC Consultation (for noting and comment). Councillors noted the consultation and that it was open for public comment.
7. Flooding – Report on Voluntary & Community Sector Focus Group Meeting. Councillor Spearink reported on the meeting from which he felt it was clear that MBC were as surprised as many people by the extent of the flood problems. He said that KCC had

- indicated they would look into making available lanterns for emergency use. Chairman Perry advised that he intended to write to neighbouring parish councils and the Environment Agency about co-operation.
8. Health Centre – Press Report. Councillors expressed disquiet about a recent local report about Health Centre issues and commented that it was unfortunate that established channels had not been engaged.
 9. Local Bus Service – Correspondence from Leader of KCC & Meeting with MP (JP/BM/PS). Chairman Perry advised that the meeting with Helen Grant MP had been postponed until 7th February. Councillors noted the letter from the Leader of KCC.
 10. MBC Assets in Staplehurst – Report of Meeting. Chairman Perry reported that he and Councillors, Butcher, Kelly and Spearink had met MBC's Head of Environment & Public Realm and discussed the future ownership of Bell Lane Car Park and Surrenden Playing Field. Further comments from MBC are awaited.
 11. Play Areas – MBC Consultation on Draft Strategy (for noting and comment). Chairman Perry advised that he and other KALC representatives would be meeting MBC to discuss play areas. Councillor Silkin agreed to provide a copy of his report on Surrenden Field and covenants. The Clerk observed that the consultation was a public one open to all to comment.
 12. Staplehurst Manor Nursing Home – Correspondence from the Manager. Chairman Perry said he would respond to the letter and contact the Community Warden.
 13. Town Centre Improvements – Verbal Report on Consultation Event. Councillor Spearink said that he had attended this MBC event which was a preliminary consultation with representatives of disability and elderly groups.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting 07/02/14 http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 19/12/13 awaited. 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 Chairman Perry said he would be organising a meeting of the group in the next two weeks.
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 20/02/14 http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx Councillor Buller said the Guides had been contacted about use of the Guide Centre for the summer play scheme.
8. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller commented that the aim was to distribute the Village Update in the week commencing 24th February.
9. Rural Settlement Group including Neighbourhood Plan (JP, MA, JB, AS) Next meeting 12/02/14 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> Councillor Burnham said he would be updating his green space plan. The Group needs to meet to review quotes for work on the play area and hedge. Councillor Ashby said dog mess had been reported in the play area.
11. UpRockin 2014 (JP, PB) Next meeting? Councillors Perry and Butcher agreed to meet to initiate plans for this year's event.
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx. Councillor Butcher said that this year's objective was to agree on any new sites for additional salt bins. Chairman Perry said that 'No Parking' signs were being ordered for Bell Lane verges.

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) 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 04/03/14. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, PK, RS, PS) Minutes of meeting 18/11/13 and report of AGM 23/11/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx
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?
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 20/03/14. Report of meeting 16/01/14 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? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK) Next meeting 14/02/14
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 04/03/14. <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, PS) Report of meeting 22/01/14 awaited. Report of meeting 30/10/13 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (SL & PB) Next meeting AGM 25/02/14. Minutes of meeting 12/11/13 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
18. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx
19. Youth Club (SL, PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx Councillor Butcher reported that Ken Collins had made a donation of £507 to the Youth Club from sale of the Staplehurst calendars. Donations had also been made to Chapel Lane Pre-School and the Under 5's Play Group. Councillors expressed their appreciation of these donations.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident spoke of his concern about a recent local press report about the Health Centre, which he felt was both misleading and a politicisation of the subject of health.