

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 19th March 2018 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Buller, Lain-Rose (from the point indicated in the minutes), Manning, Sharp, Silkin, Smith, Spearink, Symes and Burnham who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Ashby, Claridge, Perry, Reardon and Riordan.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in Items on the Agenda – Councillor Smith declared an interest in the proposed donation to the WI (Village Clean-Up report) and said she would abstain from the discussion and voting on the item as she was a member of the organisation.

Requests for Dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Minute pages 1682-1684 of 5th March 2018 were APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Burnham and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

FINANCE REPORTS:-

1. Accounts for Payment – for approval. Proposed by Councillor Silkin, seconded by Councillor Buller, the list of accounts for payment was APPROVED. Expenditure for the period 13/02/18 to 08/03/18 was £14,043.23 and income for the same period was £255.00.
2. Summation of Accounts – as at 8th March (for noting). NOTED by Councillors and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx. *Councillor Lain-Rose joined the meeting during this item.*
3. Bell Lane Toilets Cleaning – Quotations for Contract (for decision). Councillors discussed the report by the Deputy Clerk & Finance Officer dated 08/03/18, which contained information about the responses to the Parish Council's invitation to tender for a one-year contract to clean and maintain Bell Lane toilets from 01/04/18. Proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, Councillors RESOLVED to ACCEPT the bid of £7,172.20 from Paxman Services for cleaning, maintenance, provision of consumables and opening. Councillors NOTED that the prices for cleaning, maintenance and opening had been held at the 2015 level (cost of consumables dependent on usage). Councillors recorded thanks to Paxman Services for the standard of the maintenance of the toilets.

CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:

1. Community Payback – Proposal from Kent, Surrey & Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company to sign a revised working agreement (for comment and decision). RESOLVED: subject to clarification of drafting points raised by Councillor Silkin and the Clerk, Councillors RESOLVED that the Clerk should sign the revised agreement.
2. Consultation (1) Draft Revised National Planning Policy Framework – Invitation to comment (closing date 10/05/18) <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-planning-policy-framework-and-developer-contribution-consultations>. RESOLVED: (i) send details of the consultation to the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group for its meeting on 11/04/18; (ii) Planning Committee, at its meeting on 16/04/18, to review the consultation and discuss how the Parish Council should respond.
3. Consultation (2) Supporting Housing Delivery through Developer Contributions – Invitation to comment (closing date 10/05/18) [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-planning-policy-framework-and-developer-contribution-](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-planning-policy-framework-and-developer-contribution-consultations)

- [consultations](#). RESOLVED: (i) send details of the consultation to the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group for its meeting on 11/04/18; (ii) Planning Committee, at its meeting on 16/04/18, to review the consultation and discuss how the Parish Council should respond.
4. Kent Association of Local Councils Social Media Survey – Invitation from KALC to complete survey on Parish council use and use by KALC (closing date 13/04/18). The Clerk advised that the survey was positioned as a five-minute on-line questionnaire. RESOLVED: the survey to be reviewed by the Chairman and Clerk when completing the separate membership survey (Min 1679), with reference being made to Communications Group in case of need.
 5. The Parade – Proposed works to be undertaken on the footway by Kent Highways (for comment – Min 1682). Councillors discussed the proposed works to be undertaken by Kent Highways to correct the raised areas of the footpath at the Parade: the removal of six trees, roots and raised blocks; construction of new pits with root protection systems; planting of new trees; laying of flexi-pave area to provide flexibility and permeability. Councillors RESOLVED to advise Kent Highways that they were in agreement with the proposals; expressing regret for removal of the old trees, they asked that robust replacements of a good size be planted.

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

1. Clerk's Report – The Clerk reported: the Parish Office had received enquiries about a range of items including parking, water levels, properties for sale, clearance of land at George Street, the planning application for Bletchingley Oast and Farm, certification of residence for foreign social security; meetings with Play Place and Redrow Homes were scheduled for the coming week; the Office had set up and supported a meeting for Parish Council representatives with neighbouring parish councils about gypsy and traveller sites; a letter had been sent to Kent Highways about issues on the A229; the vacant councillor position had been advertised; the transfer of the Parish Council bank account to Lloyds Bank had been completed and a few remaining formalities relating to signatories were being completed; work was continuing on preparations to deal with the new General Data Protection Regulations and the Parish Council's working group would be meeting in early April.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
 - a) Churchyard Liaison Group – report of meeting 09/03/18 (for noting) and proposal to approve tree work (for decision). Chairman Burnham's report was NOTED and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx. Councillors RESOLVED to approve the programme of tree works to be arranged by ALL Saints Church PCC with Forestry First, as described on Forestry First's quotation 18-019 which had been copied to the Parish Council.
 - b) Village Clean-Up – report of event 10/03/18 (for noting) and proposal for donations to WI and Youth Club (for decision). Councillor Buller's report was NOTED and published at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>. Thanks were extended to all helpers, Parish Office staff and Councillors Buller and Burnham. RESOLVED: donations of £50 each to be made to the Youth Club and WI with thanks for their support of the event.
3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only
 - a) Staplehurst Station Issues – Oral report on meeting with Southeastern Railways (TB). Chairman Burnham reported that he and former councillor Simon Green had met representatives of Southeastern Railways: car park alterations contained little soft landscaping; the entrance to the enlarged western car park is planned to be in the position of the unmade car park entrance; poor drainage and earth was pointed out on the eastern car park; the company would welcome interest from volunteers and/or sponsors of planting areas (Horticultural Society to be advised); two more benches are

to be installed on the platform; installation of a waste bin at the station exit and a community notice-board were raised.

- b) Bletchingley Oast & Farm Planning Application – Councillor Buller reported that disappointingly MBC Planning Committee had approved the application for seven homes on the site, a decision which appeared to contradict Local Plan policy DM5.

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

- 1. Borough Councillor's Oral Report – no report as Borough Councillor Perry was not present.

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)

- 1. Councillor Silkin said he would not be in a position to join Borough Councillor Perry at the library surgery on 31/03/18. Councillors were invited to attend on the day if possible.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: No items were raised.

Meeting closed 8.00pm.