

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 1st June 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Burnham, Claridge, Gosling, Kelly, Reardon, Sharp, Spearink and Silkin who was in the Chair.
Assistant Parish Clerk: Mrs D A Jenkins

APOLOGIES: Councillors Butcher, Lain-Rose, Kemp, Manning and Perry whose apologies were accepted.

URGENT ITEMS: Councillors agreed to take one item of urgent business relating to the Young Person's Travel Pass.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied about the Neighbourhood Plan and Hen & Duckhurst Farm Planning Application. Councillor Spearink declared he had been lobbied about the Young Person's Travel Pass and Headcorn Road parking.

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interest in Items on the Agenda Councillor Reardon declared an interest in the Young Person's Travel Pass.

Requests for Dispensation – Councillor Kelly requested dispensation to speak but not to vote with regard to planter repainting.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1435-1438 of 18th May 2015 were proposed for approval by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Ashby, signed by Chairman Silkin and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Urgent Item – Councillor Spearink had been informed by a resident that a 25% increase in the cost of the Young Person's Travel Pass was being proposed by KCC, taking the cost from £200 to £250 per annum. It was felt the proposal was not widely announced, coming over half-term and with only one week's notice. Councillor Spearink confirmed that the increase had been agreed by KCC at a meeting earlier today. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to KCC expressing their dissatisfaction of the increase at a time of negative inflation.
2. Neighbourhood Plan – Update from Steering Group. *Chairman Silkin closed the meeting to allow contributions from the public.* The Chair of the Rural Settlement Group stated that two questions posed to MBC were still awaiting answers: it will not be known until after 9th June whether the NP will require a Strategic Environmental Assessment; confirmation is expected within the next two weeks as to whether Fishers Farm will be considered as one site or two. If MBC agree that Fishers Farm should be dealt with as two independent sites the NP would need to be adjusted to reflect this. However, if it was agreed to regard the site as one the master plan could be followed. The Chair of RSG noted that there seemed to be some confusion on the part of Kent Highways regarding their reasons for safeguarding a link to Lodge Road within the Hen & Duckhurst application. They were now saying this was for emergency access only. Councillor Silkin was requested to highlight this error in his ongoing correspondence with MBC. Councillor Silkin stated that the progress being made with the NP was promising. Councillor Buller confirmed the Steering Group will be meeting soon after the 9th June. *Chairman Silkin re-opened the meeting.*

3. Borough Council Update – Due to the absence of Councillor Perry there was nothing to report. Councillor Spearink mentioned that the riverside run on Sunday had raised a total of £2,200. Councillor Reardon confirmed 149 runners finished the race.
4. Caretaker's Report – no items to report.
5. Bell Lane Car Park Verges – Councillor Kelly raised concerns due to the lack of mowing by MBC. Councillor Silkin noted that the edges were being damaged by parked cars. Councillor Kelly believed this would diminish if the verges were well maintained. Councillor Silkin suggested that the Parish Council could take over responsibility of the verges at the car park subject to the agreement of MBC. This was agreed by all Councillors. Councillor Silkin asked Councillor Kelly to investigate the cost of cutting the verges during the mowing season.
6. Consultations
 - (a) Electoral Review of Kent Draft Recommendations – Noted by Councillors.
 - (b) KCC Voluntary & Community Sector Policy – Councillor Silkin requested that Councillors bring any thoughts and comments they may have to the next meeting.
7. Headcorn Road Parking – Following a resident's complaint in respect of the difficulties experienced when exiting Slaney Road and Poyntell Road, caused by the obstruction of vehicles parked on the road outside of the nursing home and Parisfield, Councillor Spearink proposed that the Parish Council write to MBC Parking Enforcement Officer Jeff Kitson. This course of action was agreed by Councillors.
8. Hen & Duckhurst Farm Planning Application – Councillor Silkin had received a response from MBC to his letter of complaint to Alison Broom. A reply to the Freedom of Information Act request had only been received today and not yet properly considered. Councillor Silkin reported that he would be responding to both the letters. Councillor Burnham asked whether Staplehurst School should be shown the part of MBC's response relating to them. Councillor Silkin asked Councillors if a copy of the letter should be in the public domain. This was agreed nem con. Councillor Gosling informed Councillors that last year KCC mooted the idea of the primary school becoming an academy, and that this was still in the pipeline. Councillor Buller congratulated Councillor Silkin on his excellent letter to Alison Broom.
9. Op Civic in Staplehurst 26th June – Noted by Councillors. It was agreed to publicise on the website.
10. Parish Council Committee & Groups – Proposals for discussion and decision. Councillor Silkin proposed that the smaller Strategy & Policy Group, who are due to meet on 8th June, might be a better forum for this discussion to take place. Some Councillors wished to express their concerns regarding planning applications being discussed by Full Council if the Planning Committee were to be dissolved. Councillor Silkin requested Councillors list their pros and cons of the existing groups and committees which would be discussed by the Strategy & Policy Group at their next meeting.
11. Planter Repainting – Councillor Kelly advised that Growing Concern would be replanting the planters in a week or so. He proposed that before this he paint the planters, which are looking tired, pale blue, for the sum of £239. Councillor Reardon believed this should have been a discussion for the VEG group. It was proposed by Councillor Burnham and agreed by six votes with three abstentions that the planters are given a fresh coat of paint. The colour is to be agreed by the VEG group.
12. Police and Parish Liaison Forum – Request to host meetings. Councillor Silkin explained that Staplehurst PC had been approached due to the reluctance of Lenham PC to continue hosting the Forum. The hosting parish usually bears the cost of the venue, secretariat and refreshments. It was proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed nem con to host the Forum for one year, following which the arrangement would be reviewed. Cllr Kelly and the Clerk would liaise regarding dates, as the proposed meeting dates are not viable.

13. Rural Affordable Housing as Community Land Trusts – Invitation from ACRK. Councillors Buller and Burnham expressed an interest in attending an event subject to dates. ACRK are to be advised.
14. Society of Local Council Clerks – Subscriptions for staff. It was proposed by Councillor Buller, seconded by Councillor Ashby and agreed nem con to pay the annual subscription for all staff at a cost of £477.
15. South Maidstone Action for Roads & Transport – Meeting Invitation. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk should reserve one place, in the event that Councillor Manning wished to attend.
16. Staplehurst Carnival 27th June – Organisation of Parish Council stall. Councillor Claridge suggested promoting the successes of the Parish Council as a theme. Suggestions to include Bell Lane toilets and planters were made. Councillor Burnham agreed to make a photo montage. Councillor Spearink requested Sarah Robson at MBC is asked to provide giveaways for the stall. It was agreed pens, pencils and bags are most favoured. Councillor Reardon asked if the inspection of the electricians was in hand. The Assistant Clerk confirmed the C&F Committee were organising this. Councillor Kelly is to confirm the availability of tables from the Village Centre. Councillor Gosling suggested asking the school for contributions from pupils. This was agreed. Councillors volunteered to cover various sessions on the stall.
17. Street & Christmas Lights Maintenance – Report and Quotations. After some discussion on the merits of entering into a maintenance contract, due to the longevity of LED lights it was proposed by Councillor Spearink, seconded by Councillor Buller and agreed unanimously that a full maintenance agreement was not required; to remain with E-on for the electricity supply to the parish lights; to remain with E-on for the electricity supply to the Christmas lights; and to accept the three year contract with Aylesford Electrical Contractors Ltd for the installation of the Christmas motifs at £1650 per annum.
18. Surgery – Report on Parish Council issues raised on 30th May. Councillor Kelly reported that the surgery had been very busy. One issue raised was disabled access in the village, including the steps outside of Vine House, and issues with using a disability credit card, as this could only be used in a limited number of outlets. Councillor Perry is to refer this issue to MBC.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (TB, BM, PS) Next meeting of TAG 19/06/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx (a) Report of 7th Kent Rail Summit 18/05/15; Councillor Spearink wished to record thanks to Robin Oakley for attending the meeting at County Hall. (b) Minutes of Transport Accessibility Group 17/04/2015.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, NK, RS, PS) Next meeting 22/06/15. Minutes of AGM 23/03/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB, MA, JB, CC, TB, AG, PK, NK, RS, PS,) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx
4. Allotments Project Group (TB, PK, JB, BM) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx
5. Strategy & Policy Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, CC SL, RS) Next meeting 08/06/15. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx
6. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? 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 (TB, PK, MA, JB, CC, NK, SL, JR) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx Councillor Buller reported that she is halfway through collating the Annual Report, the C&F programme, Health Centre & Playscheme leaflets. Paxman Printing were thanked for the excellent production of the Annual Report. Councillor Buller requested that Pat Sherlock, who had helped Councillor Buller with the counting, is written a letter of thanks by the Assistant Clerk.

Councillors were requested to collect their rounds after 2nd June following receipt of the C&F programmes. C&F Committee volunteers had offered to deliver to the rural areas so that no postage was incurred. Councillor Spearink reported that the Mayor would be visiting Staplehurst for the Mayoral Charity Event day on 28th July. He would also be visiting DK Holdings and Lainey's Care Farm on 29th June. As the latter is a parish event all Councillors would be welcome to attend.

9. Rural Settlement Group (JP, JB, NK, AS) Next meeting 03/06/15. Reports of meetings 08/04/15 and 06/05/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx.
10. Staplehurst Village Centre Development Group (TB, AG, SL) Next meeting June – date t.b.c.
11. Surrenden Playing Field Group (TB, PK, BM, JR, AS) Next meeting? <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Councillor Burnham asked Councillor Reardon if he had managed to obtain any quotes for the work. Councillor Reardon confirmed he had contacted three companies without success, but he would continue to pursue this.
12. Village Enhancement Group (TB, PK, JB, PB, JR, AS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups.aspx.
13. Youth Club (PK) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx Councillor Kelly reported that a new group of 11 year olds have joined the club, which is currently thriving. The older children have now moved on.

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Carnival & Fete (SL, BM) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_carnival_fete_committee.aspx On behalf of the C&F Committee Councillor Buller invited Councillors to attend a joint meeting with Staplehurst Society on 9th June 8pm at the URF to remember the railway crash of 150 years ago. Councillor Burnham and Anita Thompson will be making a presentation.
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? Minutes of meeting 03/03/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx Councillor Spearink reported that the museum was going through difficult times in finding volunteers to man the operation.
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, PB, PK) Next meeting? Report of meeting 14/05/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx
5. KALC Area Committee (RS, PK, PB, JP) Next meeting 16/06/15. Report of meeting 29/04/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx
6. Kent Community Alcohol Partnership (PB) Next meeting?
7. Knoxbridge A229 Residents' Group (BM, NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 14/05/15 by Cllr Manning.
8. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting? Reports of meetings 24/09/14 and 20/11/14 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
9. Neighbourhood Watch (JB, NK) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
10. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, NK, AS) Next meeting 20/08/15. Minutes of meetings 21/05/15 and 15/01/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
11. River Beult Catchment Improvement Group (JP, NK, PS) Next meeting June/July 2015 (t.b.c.). <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
12. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP, PS) Next meeting 02/06/15. Report of meeting 03/03/15 awaited. <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, AS, RS). PPG Awareness Day 12/06/15 11.00 – 16.00, at Staplehurst Health Centre. Next meeting 01/07/15. Report of meeting 15/04/15 posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx.
16. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (AG, SL, BM, JR)
17. Staplehurst Surface Water Management Plan Group (NK, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting 02/10/14 awaited.
18. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (MA, PB) Next meeting? Report of meetings 11/11/14, 03/12/14, 06/01/15 and 24/02/15 awaited. http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx

19. Village Golf & Sports Club (PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/ot_hers.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: No items were raised.

PARISH SURGERIES: It was agreed not to hold the surgery at the Library on the day of the Fete. Councillors would be available at Surrenden Field on 27th June instead. Councillor Ashby volunteered to attend the following surgery on 25th July.