

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE

held at South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 1st February 2010 at 8 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Best, Butcher, Fairfax, Kelly, Reardon, Sankey, Smith and Knowlden who was in the Chair until the Election below. Chairman Arger and Vice Chairman Perry (Ex Officio). Parish Clerk: Mrs JS Bassett

APOLOGIES: Councillors Franks and Munn, whose reasons for apology were accepted.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN – Two nominations (Councillors Burnham and Best) were proposed and seconded. Councillor Burnham received a majority of votes and took the chair from this point forward.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:

1. Lobbying – None.
2. Personal Interest – None.
3. Prejudicial Interest – None.

ENVIRONMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

1. Detached Youth Work – Councillors noted the update from the Detached Youth worker, Natalie Penfold, and commented that they would wish to see more engagement with young people and contributions towards overheads of the Youth Club Building. It was understood that problems had been experienced with young people disrespecting the Youth Club building. Councillor Butcher reported that discussions had taken place regarding overheads and security of the Youth Club Building. It was noted that the Youth Club had not been open on Tuesdays as no volunteers were available. Councillors noted that the proposed donation of £250 towards the Detached Youth Work Summer project had not been made. After discussion, Councillor Arger proposed, seconded by Councillor Knowlden and agreed by 8 with 1 against, that £250 be donated to Detached Youth Work in Staplehurst with a request for a breakdown of expenditure.
2. Friends of Poyntell Pond – Councillors noted the request for donation towards BTCV insurance and the details provided. Councillor Arger proposed, seconded by Councillor Fairfax and agreed with one abstention, to recommend the donation of £155.63 to cover the insurance premium.
3. Public Toilets – Councillor Kelly spoke to the update he had circulated, explaining that further details and a draft Lease were still awaited from Maidstone Borough Council. He was also obtaining quotes from cleaning contracting companies and had recently discovered that Council Tax would be payable, which had not been included in the original costings provided by

MBC. It was hoped soon to provide Full Council with details of all costs and legal arrangements for approval as thus far the project had only been agreed in principle. Councillor Kelly commented that MBC was keen for The Parade toilets to be taken over by the Parish also, but Councillors considered this could be progressed at a later date.

4. Request for lighting at rear of The Parade – This project had been raised during following a PACT assessment when the acute lack of lighting in that area had been highlighted. Councillors considered that lighting of the tenant's car park was the responsibility of the Landlords and understood that the parking notices could not be seen at night. Councillors considered that a new street light was needed in the road off Offens Drive leading to the Health Centre. To be pursued through Kent Highways and in consultation with the Friends of the Health Centre.
5. Resident's offer to assist with Council projects and public information – The Clerk reported that Simon Green had agreed to assist with updating the Website, checking and reporting Highway Defects and assisting with the Village Green Registration.
6. RoSPA Annual Inspection of Surrenden & Jubilee play equipment – Councillors noted the quote and recommended the Annual Inspection be carried out in July.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

1. Integrated Transport Policy – Councillors noted Councillor Wilson's views but did not consider signage was necessary.
2. Resident's suggestions for a periodic review of the parish – Councillors noted the resident's proposals but did not recommend taking them forward. Councillors considered that advising the public how to report defects should be sufficient.

CARETAKER'S INSPECTION REPORTS – Councillors noted the latest reports which did not need following up.

CURRENT PARISH PROJECTS - Current Parish Projects Review Revision 29 was discussed as follows:-

1. Jubilee Pavilion Project – Councillor Perry reported that the revised Grass Cutting Tender for Surrenden Playing field only had been received from KCC. Together with the Footballer's quote for Jubilee, the two were within budget. The only caveat being the Footballers having sufficient Public Liability Insurance cover in place. It was hoped a decision with all facts could be reached by Full Council on 15th February 2010. Councillor Best, Perry and Franks would carry out a project review shortly.

2. Staple Drive Play Area – Three quotes for equipment were being obtained and these would be displayed in the Library towards the end of February. Further public consultation would be carried out at the Primary School by Councillor Reardon. Councillor Fairfax was concerned who would maintain the area after upgrading as MBC was considering the off-loading many of its responsibilities to parishes.
3. Land at Station Kebab – Councillor Butcher had difficulty in establishing who was in charge and responsible to tidy up the area beside this business.
4. Playscheme 2010 – A quote would be considered shortly and whether or not to recommend the contracting-out of the organisation and running of Playscheme.
5. Surrenden Playing Field drainage – Councillors Best and Reardon agreed to investigate the drainage and possible pathway scheme and report back with proposals in April.
6. Youth Club gate and boundaries – Councillor Kelly agreed to progress the Conservation Area application to lop some of the trees.
7. Christmas Lights 2010 – Councillors requested that the motif lamps be tested.
8. Staplehurst Partnership – Councillor Arger reported that a further meeting would be held to make the language user-friendly. Roy Laming was also to meet with John Kelly with a view to producing a Housing Needs report.
9. Village Green Registration – Councillors Sankey and Fairfax would meet with Simon Green to agree a course of action to gather as much information as possible before approaching Maidstone Housing Trust.
10. CCTV at Surrenden Playing Field - Councillor Reardon agreed to inspect and report back.

SUB-COMMITTEE & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Emergency Plan – Councillor Perry reported that discussions would take place shortly to consider the shape and extent of gathering interested parties and parishes together for a meeting in due course.

Chairman.....

Meeting closed at 22.00

PUBLIC FORUM – No residents were in attendance.