

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE

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

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

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

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:

1. Lobbying – All Councillors declared that they had been lobbied in respect of KM307. In addition Councillor Fairfax declared she had been lobbied in respect of KM290 and KM303.
2. Personal Interest – None.
3. Prejudicial Interest – None.

ENVIRONMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

1. Christmas Motifs – Councillors noted the Report of stock and condition of the 29 Christmas Motifs showing remedial works and lamp purchases that were needed. The Clerk reported that 25% discount could be received if lamp purchases were made before 12th March. After much discussion Councillors recommended that 1,160 x 15w lamps be purchased and quotes to repair 7 motifs be obtained. Councillor Fairfax recommended and Councillors agreed that an application be made to Borough Councillor Lusty for a grant towards these costs.
2. Surrenden Playing Field Drainage & pathways – The report by Councillors Best and Reardon was noted. Councillor Reardon recommended that the advice of a field drainage company be sought to check whether an existing pipe has been blocked when the ball court had been installed.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

1. KCC Notice of Modification to the Definitive Map re: Public Footpath KM337 was noted. This related to a footpath in Marden parish near Battle Lane.
2. KCC proposed works – Improvement works to Footpaths KM307, 290 and 303 had been notified. Whilst Councillors agreed the proposed works to KM290 and 303, they did not support the tarmac proposals for KM307 leading from Chapel Lane to the Parish Church (known as Coffin Lane). Councillors commented that the drainage needed improvement beside Fir Tree Close and the walled garden of Minton House. Councillor recommended that a more sympathetic surfacing should be considered or the funding diverted to another part of KM307 behind The Old Vicarage to Frittenden Road. Councillors requested further consultation with KCC PROW Officer.

CARETAKER'S INSPECTION REPORTS – The Caretaker's reports had raised no further issues for attention. The footway from Corner Farm Road to Station Road had been litter-picked on 23rd February. The Clerk reported that Hop Engineering had now quoted in respect of repairs to the metal seat opposite Esso Garage in the High Street. Councillors requested that another company be approached for a quote.

CURRENT PARISH PROJECTS – Revision 30 was discussed as follows:-

1. Jubilee Pavilion – Councillor Perry reported that a few snags still needed to be sorted and quotes would be obtained. The final account, via Barwick’s administrators and draw down of grant from Football Foundation remained outstanding but was being chased. The Management Agreement was being reviewed for greater clarity.
2. Land adj. former Station Kebab – Councillor Butcher reported that he had spoken with the owner and requested a site meeting. He had emphasised that it was not a satisfactory car park and screening was needed for the bins.
3. Playscheme 2010 – A meeting would be held shortly with PlayPlace to handover details and agree assistance with advertising of the new arrangements.
4. Public Toilets – Councillor Kelly reported that Councillors’ comments and questions on the draft Lease would be fed back to MBC for reply. A number of maintenance issues needed to be addressed and Councillors agreed to meet with MBC as soon as possible. Concern was expressed that it may not be possible to get all issues addressed prior to MBC’s intended closure of the facilities on 1st April 2010.
5. Staple Drive Play Area – Councillor Fairfax reported that positive progress was being achieved. The proposals were being displayed in Staplehurst Library, would be considered by the Primary School Council and MBC officers would visit shortly and offer advice.
6. Staplehurst Partnership – Chairman Arger reported that the conclusions from this work were being worked upon by Roy Laming and John Kelly and would be taken forward by the Rural Partnership Group.

SUB-COMMITTEE & COUNCILLOR REPORTS for noting.

1. Surrenden CCTV – Councillor Reardon reported that the system is still working and a noise cooling fan had been removed and would be replaced soon. The scheduled service by Cam Tech could now go ahead, with a particular check on the optical sensor for the Infra Red Lamps, because it was full of water.
2. Pedestrian Crossing in Marden Road – Councillor Butcher advised that pressure should be kept on Kent Highways to ensure this project is progressed.
3. Dropped kerbs in Station Approach- Councillor Knowlden requested a progress report on this proposal.

Chairman.....

Meeting closed at 22:00

PUBLIC FORUM

Two residents spoke on the KCC proposals for Footpaths KM307, 290 and 303. Whilst supporting the proposed works to KM290 and 303, they both objected most strongly to the KCC PROW proposal to tarmac part of KM307.

Councillor Spearink commented that the proposed tarmac surface to KM307 was necessary as an alternative disabled access to the Parish Church.