

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE

held at South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre on
Tuesday 4th May 2010 at 8 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Knowlden, Munn and Reardon whose reasons for apology were accepted. Councillor Fairfax had tendered her resignation, which was received with much regret by Councillors.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:

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

ENVIRONMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

1. Core Strategy - Councillors noted the response from the team working on data and information collected for the future distribution of development. Whilst the team was not yet in a position to make any recommendations, it confirmed the Parish would be kept informed and involved.
2. The Parade – MBC Notice to Landlords to discontinue maintenance from 06/06/2010 was noted. No reply yet received from Landlords regarding future arrangements for cleansing and maintenance. Councillors considered that the future maintenance of the two Parish Council Street Lights, Litter Bins and CCTV would need addressing. Agreed to inform the Landlord but not to change the status quo at present.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

1. Kent Highway Services – Noted that Steadline Ltd had been assigned to repair weather damaged roads in this area from 13th April. There remained large areas yet to be completed and Councillors advised that reports of defects be made as soon as possible.
2. Kent Highway Services Survey for Councillors had been circulated and Councillors Buller had offered some comments. More responses were needed.
3. Footpath KM307 – Councillors noted that KHS would not tarmac Coffin Lane.
4. Footpath KM312 – Following exchanges with KHS it was understood that surface improvement works from Butcher Close southwards would be assessed and implemented soon.

CARETAKER'S INSPECTION REPORTS – The Clerk reported that no major items of expenditure were required at present. However, the Caretaker's reports indicated the usual volume of broken alcohol bottles cleared from around the parish and playing fields. The police were being kept informed.

CURRENT PARISH PROJECTS - Revision 32 had been circulated for discussion and noting. Councillors commented on the following issues;

1. Jubilee Sewage Pumps Service – The quoted costs were noted for a new panel and pump but Councillors recommended to proceed with the next service only.
2. Bell Lane Toilets – The responsibility for the toilets had been handed over earlier this day. Insurance and revised Terms and Conditions had been implemented. The completed Lease was awaited from MBC. The Toilets would be manually opened by the Cleaner in the mornings and closed by the Clerk or other volunteer in the evenings.
3. Registration of Village Green – Councillors noted the recommendations made by Simon Green. Councillors were keen to ensure this Council had control of the land (freehold preferred or long lease) but needed to be sure what could be done with a Village Green after registration. Clerk to draft a letter for approval by Full Council.
4. Electricity Supply Costs – Councillor Best had endeavoured to obtain competitive quotes but supply companies were geared up for domestic or single supply so could not quote for unmetered supplies. He was still trying to make progress and would continue the quest but it was proving difficult.
5. Staple Drive Play Area – Councillors Buller, Kelly, Knowlden and Reardon would be meeting again on site (the next day) with the Playdale Representative to clarify the final requirements.
6. Staplehurst Partnership – Following adoption of the work undertaken by the partnership, the Group would now be known as the Rural Settlement Group. A Housing Needs Survey would now be undertaken.
7. Surrenden Playing Field Drainage – A meeting to seek the advice from Maidstone Borough Council was awaited.
8. Youth Club – Councillor Butcher reported that no further contact had been made by Sobell Lodge regarding parking issues during their building works. Councillor Kelly requested that the Tree Warden be asked to advise on planting and landscape issues. The Clerk to liaise with Changing Seasons regarding the hedge cutting height and timing.

SUB-COMMITTEE & COUNCILLOR REPORTS - Publicity & Website Group Meeting notes of 22/04/10 and the April dashboard Report had been circulated and were noted. Councillor Best commented that the major focus was to get the Annual Report and Summer Update ready for printing. He also highlighted that the Website Year in the Life photographs were being sorted into Annual Albums with the most recent photographs showing first. Recommendations on the quotes to improve IT security and backups would be considered at next Full Council.

COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION – Councillors noted with regret that Councillor Smith tendered her resignation for personal reasons with immediate effect.

Chairman.....

Meeting closed at 21.10