

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 5th December 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Margaret Ashby, Joan Buller, Tom Burnham, Paul Butcher, Simon Green, John Kelly, Paul Kelly, Barrett Manning, John Reardon, Rory Silkin, Peter Spearink and Chairman John Perry. Parish Clerk: Mrs. Sue Bassett

APOLOGIES: Councillors Sam Lain and Adele Sharp whose reasons for apology were accepted.

URGENT ITEM(S): None.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:

1. Lobbying – Councillor Joan Buller re: Caretaker's Reports, Speed Watch & The Parade. Councillors Paul Kelly & Peter Spearink re: Hanmer Way/Pinnock Lane junction. Councillor Tom Burnham re: Diamond Jubilee Plans/Fun Fair.
2. Personal Interest – None declared.
3. Prejudicial Interest (Councillor to leave meeting whilst such item under discussion).

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Pages 1112-1114 of 21st November 2011 were approved after the following revisions were made; Page 1113 Paragraph 2 to add "In the meantime it was agreed to increase the budget to £250." Page 113 Paragraph 3 Councillors Paul Butcher and Paul Kelly wished it recorded that they had voted against the proposal to hold a separate meeting on 12th December. The revised minutes were then made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx

CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-

1. Caretaker's Inspection Reports – The Clerk highlighted various issues including (1) the problem of the Village Centre Biffa bin always being full with little room for the rubbish collected by the Caretaker. After much discussion Councillor Paul Kelly agreed to take the issue back to the Village Centre meeting on 06/12/11 with a view that two bins were necessary and cost to be divided between SPC and VCMC. (2) Market Street litter problem that had been highlighted around the entrance adjacent to the Kebab Shop. Agreed the caretaker should spend 1 hour per week to keep the area tidier and write to Golding Homes about the issue (as tenants had been witnessed dropping litter).
2. DHA Planning letter was considered. After much discussion it was proposed by Councillor John Kelly, seconded by Councillor Peter Spearink and agreed to meet and talk but only with a Borough Planning Officer present. It was further requested that MBC advice be taken about making such meeting public.
3. Parish Councillor Vacancy – The Clerk reported that one person had applied to date and that publicity was continuing. The Chairman considered there was no rush to fill this vacancy and Councillors were reminded of the request for positive thoughts to add to the Councillor "Job Description" so that new Councillors would know what would be expected of them.

Chairman's initials.....

4. Parish Independent Remuneration Panel – The Report was noted and considered. After discussion Councillor Tom Burnham proposed, seconded by Councillor Paul Kelly and agreed (with one against – SG) to accept the 45p per mile recommendation for Travel Expenses with immediate effect. It was further proposed by Councillor John Kelly, seconded by Councillor Simon Green and agreed that no Councillor allowance would be adopted, but that the existing Chairman's Allowance (for items related to the office of Chairman – not personal to Chairman) at £500 per annum would be maintained. Whether or not to pay for Councillors out of pocket expenses for printing costs would be referred to Finance Group.
5. Hanmer Way/Pinnock Lane junction – The resident's email was considered. Councillor Joan Buller proposed, seconded by Councillor Simon Green and agreed that Kent Highways be asked to review of the area for signs and road markings. Councillor John Reardon commented that he would shortly be meeting with KHS Representative, Gemma Catt, so would raise the issue then.
6. Speeding issues at Church Hill – The resident's email was noted. Councillors agreed to write to Kent Highways and Kent Police to suggest that traffic islands or bollards be reconsidered.
7. Section 106 issues – Memorandum from Councillor Green had been circulated and uploaded at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/uploads/staplehurst/documents/21/873.pdf> Councillor Paul Butcher requested that this item be discussed after the supermarket application had been considered on 12th December. Various viewpoints were raised and considered. After much discussion Councillor Butcher's request was agreed but meanwhile Councillors should prepare a prioritised list for applicants and Borough Councillors to take into consideration.
8. Supporting Communities and Neighbourhood Planning Conference 01/12/11 – Report by Councillor John Kelly uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx It was explained that Community-led Planning would be led by community groups with some input by Councillors and that Neighbourhood Plans would be led by the parish council with input from community members. Councillors had a long discussion and some considered that training was needed. Chairman Perry agreed to check on the Training Policy that had been drawn up some years ago and report back with recommendations for consideration.
9. Tesco letter of lobbying was noted without comment.
10. The Parade – discussed various issues surrounding wheel clamping. Maintenance and cleanliness regimes were not frequent enough. Concern was expressed that many people were boycotting Staplehurst as the whole area is a disgrace and let the village down. Chairman Perry agreed to write to the freeholders.

COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (PB, BM, PS) Next meeting? Report of meeting held on 02/12/11 was awaited. Previous reports available at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx Councillor Spearink reported on the meeting held on 02/12/11 where it was announced that funding had been awarded by Kent County Council to run a 2-hourly Sunday service from Staplehurst to Hawkhurst for a 6-month trial.
2. Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (JB, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting 08/12/11 Report of meeting on 03/11/11 to be uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx
3. Planning Committee (PB,JK,PK,MA,JB,TB,SG,JP,PS) http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx Councillor Paul Butcher considered that agreement regarding the running of the meeting on 12th December was needed. After much discussion it was agreed that Chairman Perry would open the first part/public session of the meeting and Councillor Butcher would chair the second part/Council only session of the meeting.

Chairman's initials.....

4. Alcohol Control Zone Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx One quote for a CCTV pole at Jubilee had been received but no detail given. Councillors agreed in principle to waive Financial Regulation 11.1(g) but requested full details/specification to support the quote.
5. Allotments Project Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, JK, BM) Next meeting? Councillor Barrett Manning reported no progress but the group was still pressing for a meeting with the land owner. Reports uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx
6. Council Policy Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, JK, RS, PS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx No report made.
7. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, JR) Next meeting 15/12/11 Chairman commented on the recent MBC Scrutiny meeting when the Parish Services Scheme had been discussed. Report uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/finance_group.aspx
8. Playscheme (JP, TB, PK, JB, SL) Next meeting 2012 http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth_activities_1.aspx
9. Publicity & Website Group (JP, TB, PK, MA, JB, JK, SL, JR) Next meeting? Report of 17/11/11 was awaited and to be uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/publicity_website.aspx It was understood that 60 entries to the photographic competition had been received from 23 photographers. Judges would choose the top 10 for display on 19th December.
10. Rural Settlement Group (JP, TB, PK, JK, JB, SG) Next meeting 14/12/11 Report of 16/11/11 uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx
11. Surrenden Playing Field Group (JP, TB, BM, AS, JR) First meeting yet to be agreed.
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, PS) Next meeting? Previous reports at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx> Painting quotes were still outstanding. The Christmas lights were up but problems existed with some lamps and time clocks which would be sorted shortly. Kent Highways approval for new planters was awaited. Work had begun towards a Litter Pick of residential areas with a pavement on 24th March 2012. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Paul Butcher, seconded by Councillor Joan Buller and agreed that the South Hall be hired to give refreshments to the litter pickers. It was hoped to store rubbish at the Village Centre over the weekend. It was further proposed by Councillor Paul Kelly, seconded by Councillor Paul Butcher and agreed to purchase 6 litter pickers to give to residents who were willing to litter pick at their own discretion. Councillor Joan Buller to make enquiries if any litter pickers could be made available by MBC. Councillor Peter Spearink reported that he had fixed a hasp and staple to one salt bin that was regularly blowing open at Greenhill.
13. Diamond Jubilee Plans – (BM, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting? http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_celebrations.aspx Agreed to ask Graham Sivyer who would be the Editor for the Jubilee Souvenir Leaflet and to confirm that local residents would be informed regarding the proposals. Print deadlines would also be notified. Councillor Peter Spearink was still working on the costings for a Beacon.

REPORTS FOR NOTING from local community groups:-

1. Churchyard Liaison (PB, PK) Next meeting? Previous reports at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx Councillor Paul Kelly reported that quotes for a concrete pathway and an eco-friendly "Tiger Mulch" pathway were being pursued.
2. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting?
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 13/03/12 Previous reports at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, TB, JK) Next meetings 02/02/12 & 29/03/12 Reports of meetings held on 01/12/11 uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx Chairman Perry highlighted that Football Club Sponsors were proposing to put up a Marquee for a music event on 21/01/12

Chairman's initials.....

5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting? When available the report of 15/11/11 meeting will be uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx
6. McCabe Day Centre (JB) Next meeting 19/01/12. Report of meeting held on 17/11/11 uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx
7. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) Next meeting 23/02/12 Report of Maidstone and Staplehurst NHW AGMS on 10/11/11 and 01/12/11 uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
Councillor Joan Buller commented that the new Policing Team had attended.
8. Police/Parish Liaison (PB, PS) Next meeting 22/02/12. Report of meeting held on 25/10/11 uploaded at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx
9. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP) Next meeting? When available the report of 15/11/11 meeting will be uploaded at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>
10. Speed Watch (JB) Next meeting? Previous reports available at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/speedwatch.aspx>
11. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB, PB, PS) Next meeting VAM AGM 08/12/11
12. Staplehurst Patients' Participation Group (JB, RS, PS) Next meeting? When available the report of 27/10/11 will be at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx
13. Staplehurst Primary School Liaison (JR)
14. Staplehurst Village Centre Trust (PK) Next meeting 06/12/11 When available the reports of 02/08/11 and following meetings will be at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village_centre_trust.aspx
15. Youth Club (PK) Next meeting? Previous reports at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: A member of the public raised the following Agenda items:-
Hanmer Way/Pinnock Lane junction – Asked that Kent Highways review the junction and consider signage. Four vehicles had been damaged recently due to speed.
Speeding on Church Hill – There remains an issue there and through to The Quarter. KHS prepared a scheme with islands in the road some years ago which was vetoed by Kent Police. Requested revisiting this issue with demountable bollards.
Section 106 monies - When consideration is being given to the spending of any such monies, could speed reduction measures on A229 be included?

Chairman's initials.....