

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE

held at South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre on
Tuesday 6th April 2010 at 9 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Reardon and Smith whose reasons for apology were accepted.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:

1. Lobbying – Councillor Fairfax re: Bell Lane Toilets and Staple Drive Play Area project. Councillor Munn re: Footpaths.
2. Personal Interest – None.
3. Prejudicial Interest – None.

ENVIRONMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

1. KALC Newsletter No: 346 had been circulated. Councillor Perry and Spearink had indicated their wish to attend the 2nd Annual Kent Voluntary & Community Sector Conference on 19th May.
2. KCC Local Board Funding opportunities were noted without comment.
3. Metal seat in High Street - Second opinion and quote were considered and after discussion Councillor Arger proposed and agreed nem con that the metal seat be removed and disposed of as soon as possible but to leave the plinth. A replacement memorial seat was suggested in memory of Dr. Skinner.
4. Surrenden Playing field drainage & pathway – It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.
5. Village Green Registration – Councillor Fairfax spoke to Simon Green's recommendation that Maidstone Housing Trust (now Golding Homes) should be approached as it would make the whole process simpler. Councillors agreed that he should.
6. Kent Men of the Trees Competition – Councillors agreed to enter this competition this year at a cost of £10.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

1. Clapper Farm Lane – Councillors noted that KHS still intended to call a meeting towards the end of April. Councillor Munn commented that a land

owner (Richard Carpenter) was having access problems so was currently not able to maintain the hedge adjacent to this lane, though he wished to.

- 2. Coffin Lane – Councillors noted that MBC Conservation Area Officer had made representations to KHS against its proposals to tarmac this footpath.

CARETAKER’S INSPECTION REPORTS – The Caretaker’s report sheets highlighted the usual broken glass and litter which had been cleared up. The Clerk reported that vandalism damage to the two green seats had occurred over the Easter weekend and been reported to the Police. CCTV recordings were being investigated. Councillors agreed that Hop Engineering should effect repairs as soon as possible.

CURRENT PARISH PROJECTS – Revision 31

- 1. Jubilee Pavilion – Dealing with the snags was still outstanding.
- 2. Staple Drive Play Area – Councillors were considering revised quotes and hoped to make a recommendation to Full Council on 19th April 2010.
- 3. Summer Playscheme 2010 – A meeting with PlayPlace and Staff was planned shortly.
- 4. Youth Club – Councillor Butcher as Chairman of the Youth Club reported that Sobell Lodge wished to use the Youth Club building as a quiet area for its residents during the proposed building works at Sobell Lodge. Councillor Butcher also reported that the builders wished to use the Youth Club land for temporary parking during these building works and had offered to provide a new gate and make good any damage. Councillors were sympathetic and agreed in principle to the request but wished to see this in writing and a photographic record of the land be taken first.

COUNCILLOR REPORT for noting.

Clean Kent & Annual Village Clean Up – Councillor Arger reported that following her meeting with the officers of Clean Kent it would not be possible to cover the areas in dire need but documentation to cover areas at medium risk would be sent. Councillor Arger commented that the organisation of a clean up was not something that the Parish could taken on board this year. If, however, Councillors or other voluntary group were prepared to do the necessary paperwork, it could perhaps take place next year.

Chairman.....

Meeting closed at 21.45