

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE

held at South Hall, Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 7th June 2010 at 8 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Best, Butcher, Paul Kelly, Knowlden, Munn, and Sankey. Chairman Perry, who initially took the Chair and Vice Chairman Burnham (Ex Officio). Assistant to Parish Clerk: Mrs H Warmington

APOLOGIES: Councillor Reardon whose reason for apology was accepted.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Councillor Perry in the Chair explained that this was a major role within the Parish Council. He nominated Cllr Best, which was seconded by Cllr Knowlden. Cllr. Perry then called for a vote which was taken. Those who voted were in favour; Cllrs Butcher and Paul Kelly abstained.

Councillor Kelly gave his apologies and left the meeting at this point.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:

1. Lobbying – Cllr Perry and Cllr Burnham item 3.2
2. Personal Interest – Cllr Perry as Trustee of Jubilee Field Management Committee
3. Prejudicial Interest – None.

ENVIRONMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

1. Annual Village Clean Up – Further correspondence had been received which was considered at some length by Councillors. After deliberation they decided that they stood by their earlier concerns regarding Health and Safety and parish Council responsibility. They asked that the Clerk write and explain these to the resident.
2. Allotments - Cllrs noted that there were many posts on the Village Forum concerning the lack of allotments in the Village. Cllr Perry urged that the new Allotments Group meet as soon as possible and also look to enlarge so that local residents could share their ideas. Cllr Knowlden encouraged the new group to build on the past. Cllrs acknowledged that there had been much hard work previously not shared sufficiently with residents who were perhaps unaware of the level of previous activity but that it was worth re-visiting some of these given the change in economic climate. It was proposed that the new group write a report explaining previous activity and that this could be posted on the Village Website and advertised through other mediums. A request for land to buy or rent should be included, acknowledging the need for a possible let out clause for the landlord in the future.
3. Jubilee Sports Pavilion
 - 3.1 Annual checks and assessments for Pavilion – Although a plan was currently been drawn up and indeed some areas already reviewed

Councillors wish to seek further clarification of the responsibilities between the Parish Council and the Trustees of the Jubilee Field Management for the on-going programme. The Clerks advice is to be sought. Issues arising from the build were currently being rectified. This matter to also be considered by the Finance Group in more detail. Councillors asked this be a standing item on the agenda until fully resolved.

- 3.2 Proposed cycle track & Guides concerns – Cllr Perry outlined the proposals in more detail adding that everything was still subject to discussion with the users of the Jubilee Field. The Guides concerns were noted and they were valued users of the site but other potential responsible users needed to be encouraged to sustain the viability of the site and ensure a wide spread of the community has access. It was proposed that following further consultation with the Users of Jubilee Field a proposal will be put to SPC for a full decision.
- 3.3 Maclin Pumps Service Report & Contract 2010/2011. Whilst Councillors wished to delay work on the pump repair for the time being this should be reviewed in the autumn. Cllr Knowlden proposed and Cllr Burnham seconded that the Contract for 2010/2011 be renewed and this was unanimously accepted.
4. Staplehurst Library concerns about anti-social behaviour – The concerns raised were discussed at length. Cllrs noted the recent additional police activity in the area and reflected on the work of Trading Standards in tackling underage drinking with some success. The current issues seemed to be raised by older individuals. It was proposed that Cllr Perry will have a meeting with the local police to pursue the idea of a Designated No Alcohol area. Cllrs acknowledged this would require collating evidence and careful consideration of any areas proposed. Cllrs asked that the Clerk write to the Librarian and help set up the meeting with the Police.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

1. Footpaths KM269 & KM303 – Cllrs noted the concerns and that the Public Rights of Way Officer is to visit the sites. Cllrs asked for a progress report on the Clapper Farm Lane to be brought to the next meeting, when hopefully there will be more to report.
2. KHS Find & Fix Programme – Cllrs noted the progress report.

CARETAKER'S INSPECTION REPORTS: Noting the report on the Play Equipment Councillors asked that the Clerk investigate the repairs, obtaining quotes if necessary. The work on the ladies toilets in Bell Lane was also noted. Cllr Sankey will review with Cllr Paul Kelly and advise the Clerk if they think this is something the Caretaker could undertake. If so then they asked this go ahead as soon as possible.

CURRENT PARISH PROJECTS

1. Playscheme – Cllrs Best and Sankey volunteered to be the designated link persons. Cllrs noted that the flyers were expected any day.

2. Surrenden Playing field – Pathway scheme quotes. After some discussion Cllr Best asked that this be taken back one step. The drainage needs to be sorted before any path is laid. He requested current quotes be put to one side. Cllr Best will liaise with the Clerk on the way forward.

FOCUS GROUPS & COUNCILLOR REPORTS

1. Publicity & Website Group – Meeting notes of 20/05/10, May Dashboard Report and Website Support terms. Cllr Best gave a report based on the notes circulated. He explained that there will be a change of emphasis in future to enable other parts of the website to grow. Currently some parts very difficult to navigate and therefore the Forum was being used to advertise events that could be advertised elsewhere. There will be an updated schedule. The current quote from Zulogic was unanimously agreed, but will be reported to Full Council who has the Website on their next agenda.
2. Diagrit Sports Field – Councillor Butcher – This has not yet progressed as contact has been difficult to establish.
3. McCabe Day Centre – Councillor Sankey – A brief verbal report was given highlighting the Christmas Party, possible use of the mini-bus, and closer links with the Older Person Forum. A written report will follow to be added to the Reports area of the website (not the Councillors Area).
4. Other reports for noting – There were no other reports.

Chairman.....

Meeting closed at 21.30

PUBLIC FORUM – Opportunity was given at the start and conclusion of the meeting for residents to address the councillors. A resident commented that the Allotments Group has a long history and urged that the present group should look at this and not try to reinvent the wheel. Cllr Arger from the floor added that there was a list of attendees of previous meetings concerning allotments and perhaps residents should be encouraged to also join the group, although none had come forward in the past. The question of devolved powers was raised and Cllr Perry advised this would be considered by the Full Council at their next meeting. A resident raised concerns on behalf of the Guides and the Guide centre with regard to 3.2. At the conclusion of the meeting a resident commented that a possible exclusion zone in The Parade would mean the issues would just disperse to another part of the village and asked that consideration be given to include the Village Centre, Surrenden Playing Field and Jubilee Field.