

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Margaret Ashby, Joan Buller, Paul Butcher, Simon Green, John Kelly, Paul Kelly, Barrett Manning, Adele Sharp, Peter Spearink and Vice Chairman Tom Burnham who chaired this meeting. Parish Clerk: Mrs. JS Bassett

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors John Perry and John Reardon whose reasons for apology were accepted. Councillors Sam Lain and Rory Silkin absent.

**COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS:**

1. Lobbying – Councillor Buller declared she had been lobbied in respect of rats in Market Street area.
2. Personal Interest – Councillors Paul Kelly and Simon Green declared personal interests in the additional Planters' Project
3. Prejudicial Interest – Councillor Paul Kelly declared and prejudicial interest in the additional Planters' Project and left the room whilst this was being discussed.

**APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES:** Minute Pages 1108-1111 of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were approved, signed by Vice Chairman Tom Burnham then uploaded at: [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx)

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCES**

1. KCC Landscape Services – The quote for gang-mowing Surrenden Playing Field 2012 was agreed at £806.03.
2. Additional Planters' Project – Quotes for Installation and future maintenance were considered and discussed in detail. It was agreed to purchase and install 3 new planters along the A229 (subject to Kent Highways approval) at a cost of £934.00 with future maintenance and watering by Growing Concern at £1,294.20 per annum.
3. Summation to date – Circulated and noted without comment.
4. Accounts for payment – The list (totalling £12,963.71 for payments, £14,390.93 receipts) had been circulated. Councillor Green proposed acceptance, seconded by Councillor Buller and agreed nem con with one abstention by Councillor Paul Kelly.

**CORRESPONDENCE & CURRENT ISSUES for noting or decision:-**

1. Disturbances outside Village Centre & Youth Club – VCMC Chairman's letters were noted and considered. After much discussion, Councillors agreed that no further action was required as the matter had now been settled through Councillors Paul Kelly, Paul Butcher and Margaret Ashby having met with the complainant; notes at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst\\_youth\\_club.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx) Agreed to acknowledge the VCMC Chairman's letters.
2. KALC AGM – Verbal feedback by Councillors Butcher and Paul Kelly described the KFR & Police speakers as interesting.
3. Kent Fire & Rescue Service – Consultation on Integrated Risk Management Plan (deadline 16/01/12) Councillor Spearink confirmed that none of the proposed changes were likely to affect the Maidstone Area but he would read the documentation and comment on the full report shortly.
4. Kent Highway Services Tracker Survey 2011 – response deadline 20/12/11. Councillors agreed to give their individual views to the Clerk to meld into one survey response.

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5. MBC Review of Polling districts, places and stations – Councillors noted that no changes were proposed.
6. Neighbourhood Planning Symposium – Report by Councillors John Kelly and Simon Green uploaded at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx) It was emphasised that having a Neighbourhood Plan was essential to ensure there would not be a development “free for all” in future. The plan would need to be backed up by a referendum which could cost a lot of money.
7. Residents’ concerns re: rats in Market Street area. Councillors noted and recommended referring the matter back to MBC Environmental Health for action with copy to Borough Councillors.
8. The Parade – Cycle Parking was considered a good idea by a majority of Councillors but issues of siting, parade ownership, costs and funding were raised. Agreed no further action at this stage but to keep the suggestion “on the back burner”.
9. Village Clean Up 2012 – Councillor Burnham commented that details needed to be worked out with MBC and the project would aim at March 2012.

#### **COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS** – Reports and recommendations:-

1. Local Transport (PB, BM, PS) Previous reports at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst\\_transport.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/hawkhurst_transport.aspx) Next meeting 02/12/11 The slight changes to the No 5 Sunday bus service would be looked into.
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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kcc_emergency_planning_group.aspx) Councillor Spearink reported that SEHT had purchased its own mobile phone (07517 383600) but high visibility jackets had not yet been costed/purchased. Meanwhile Councillor Spearink to check if jackets could be sourced through MBC or KCC free of charge. Additional funding may be needed. It was suggested that SEHT should agree and advise a budget requirement for 2012/2013. In the meantime it was agreed to increase the budget to £250.
3. Planning Committee (PB,JK,PK,MA,JB,TB,SG,JP,PS) [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes\\_of\\_the\\_last\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx) Councillors discussed at length how they wished to deal with the supermarket applications. Agreed to hold a separate meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m. Clerk to request additional copies of the plans and ask MBC Planning Officer to attend. Agreed to publicise widely with details on the Forum, Website Latest News Page, posters and email groups.
4. Alcohol Control Zone Group (JP, TB, PK JB, PB) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx) No progress achieved, Clerk to chase contractor for quote for CCTV pole at Jubilee Playing field. Reported that KCC had agreed a grant of £4,000 towards this project. Councillors thanked the Clerk for making the application.
5. Allotments Project Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, JK, BM) Next meeting 23/11/11. [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub\\_groups\\_1.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_1.aspx) Councillor Barrett Manning reported that the proposed land owner had still not responded to requests to move the project forward despite repeated approaches. It was hoped to negotiate a freehold purchase or lease but cost/rent and/or suggested leasehold term of 15-20 years had not yet progressed.
6. Council Policy Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, JK, RS, PS) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx) Feedback regarding the proposed road signs was requested.
7. Finance Group (JP, TB, PK, PB, SG, JR) Next meeting? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/policy_group.aspx) Councillor Paul Kelly referred to the Clerk’s Report that had been submitted to the Finance Group on 31<sup>st</sup> October and requested that this be circulated to all Councillors for feedback.
8. Playscheme (JP, TB, PK, JB, SL) Next meeting 2012? [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/youth\\_activities\\_1.aspx](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 to be uploaded at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/uploads/staplehurst/documents/10/811.pdf> Councillor John Kelly

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reported that the photography competition had received 24 entries to date and judges were happy with the selection process. Winners to be announced at some point during the 19<sup>th</sup> December meeting. Understood that minor tweaks to the website were anticipated and statistics would be available soon as it was important to provide statistics to underpin the work of the Rural Settlement Group. Councillor Buller reported that she and Jenny Fairfax had organised the delivery of the Village Updates in two hours. Agreed to send a note of thanks.

10. Rural Settlement Group (JP, TB, PK, JK, JB, SG) Next meeting 14/12/11 Report of 16/11/11 meeting uploaded at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural\\_settlement\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/rural_settlement_group.aspx)
11. Surrenden Playing Field Group (JP, TB, BM, AS, JR) First meeting? Councillor Burnham agreed to progress this.
12. Village Enhancement Group (JP, TB, PK, JB, PB, SL, PS) Next meeting? Councillor Paul Kelly reported that he was still trying to get quotes for the repainting works and would ensure the metal door handles and cubicle locks would be replaced following theft.
13. Diamond Jubilee Plans – (BM, SL, AS, PS) Next meeting 23/11/11 [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee\\_celebrations.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_celebrations.aspx)

**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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/sub_groups_2.aspx)
2. Village Sports & Social Club (PB) Next meeting 24/11/11
3. Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee (JP, BM) Next meeting 13/03/12 Previous reports at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn\\_aerodrome.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/headcorn_aerodrome.aspx)
4. Jubilee Field Management & Users Group (JP, TB, JK) Next meeting 08/12/11 Previous reports at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee\\_fields\\_users\\_group.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/jubilee_fields_users_group.aspx)
5. KALC Area Committee (JP, PB, RS, PS) Next meeting? Report of 15/11/11 meeting uploaded at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent\\_association\\_of\\_local\\_councils.aspx](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 17/11/11 uploaded at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe\\_day\\_centre.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/mccabe_day_centre.aspx)
7. Neighbourhood Watch (JB) Next meeting 01/12/11 Report of Maidstone NHW AGM 10/11/11 uploaded at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police\\_liaison.aspx](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx)
9. Sobell Cheshire Home (JP) Next meeting? Councillor Spearink reported that there was nothing to report to the Council from the 15/11/11 meeting. Previous meeting notes 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> Councillor Buller reported that a person doing 46 mph in a 30mph area had been logged recently. Next Speedwatch event 06/12/11.
11. Staplehurst Community Hub (JB, PB, PS) Next meeting?
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](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? When available the report of 02/08/11 meeting will be at [http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/village\\_centre\\_trust.aspx](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](http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/staplehurst_youth_club.aspx)

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**PUBLIC FORUM:** There were no members of the public present.

**POLICE REPORT:** PCSO Pete Gardner had reported by email that 11 crimes had been recorded since the previous meeting:- 3 criminal damage, 3 theft, 2 burglary, 1 theft of motor vehicle, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 1 attempted robbery.

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