

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 5th March 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Claridge (until the point indicated in the minutes), Lain-Rose, Manning, Perry, Reardon, Riordan, Sharp, Silkin, Smith, Spearink, Symes and Burnham who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillor Gosling.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in Items on the Agenda – Councillors Lain-Rose, Perry and Riordan declared an interest in items relating to Jubilee Field Management Committee (Finance Report 1 and Jubilee Field Maintenance Agreement) as they held positions on the Committee.

Requests for Dispensation – Councillors Perry and Riordan were granted a dispensation to speak and vote on the items of declared interest in accordance with section 33(2)(c) of the Localism Act 2011. Councillor Lain-Rose exercised the dispensation granted in accordance with section 33(2)(c) of the Localism Act 2011 on 04/12/17 (Min 1665).

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Minute pages 1678-1681 of 19th February 2018 were APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Burnham and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

FINANCE REPORTS:-

1. Jubilee Field Sewage Pump – Quotation for repair works (for approval). Councillors NOTED the quotation from the current service contractor. Councillor Riordan volunteered to seek further quotations.

CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:

1. Hawkenbury Walkway – Proposal by Kent Highways to remove wooden walkway between the railway and river bridges (for comment). Councillors commented that they would prefer to see the walkway retained and maintained in view of its heritage value and to provide passage through the location when flooded. However, they also noted that the walkway did not comply with current safety standards and recognised that modifications would be needed. They hoped that if the walkway were to be removed the incidences of flooding at the location could be addressed. The Clerk will respond to Kent Highways on this basis.
2. Kent Highways – Report of meeting 20/02/18 between representatives of Parish Council and Kent Highways. Councillors NOTED the Clerk's report which was published at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>. They NOTED that following the meeting Kent Highways had submitted proposals for works on the footway at the Parade, which would be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.
3. Safety and speeding on A229 and rural roads – Discussion pursuant to Parish Council request Min1679. Councillors considered the actions proposed by Kent Highways following discussions between county and borough councillors (previously discussed Min 1679) and reviewed the Speedwatch team's records for A229 activity, Councillor Claridge's analysis of the A229 between Linton and Staplehurst and Councillor Manning's comments about the A229 at Knoxbridge. RESOLVED: write to Kent Highways to (i) support the proposed quick wins; (ii) request that improvements to cats' eyes also be prioritised for immediate action; (iii) press for the use of speed sensors and cameras; (iv) press for a 40mph limit south of the village between Iden Park and Grandshore Lane. RESOLVED:

- copy the letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner. RESOLVED: contact neighbouring parishes to canvass appetite for a joint parish campaign to tackle rural speeding. RESOLVED: review progress in April.
4. Metal Detecting Activity – Request to grant individual consent on parish council land (Wimpey Field). Councillors NOTED the request came from outside the parish and that two other parishes had already turned down an identical request. No councillors were favourable towards the principle of metal detecting on parish council land. Councillors therefore RESOLVED to decline the request.
 5. Pavement Parking – Letter from Department for Transport to Helen Grant MP following an issue raised by the Parish Council. NOTED by Councillors. Councillor Perry said he would ask MBC about its attitude towards making more use of Traffic Regulation Orders.
 6. Rail Forum – Report of Southeastern Stakeholder Forum 21/02/18. Chairman Burnham's report was NOTED by Councillors and posted at <http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/others.aspx>. Chairman Burnham said he was following up with a representative of Southeastern Railways the possibility of having some minor improvement works completed alongside the car park extension.
 7. Rail Summit – Invitation from KCC to attend the 10th Rail Summit on 14/05/18. Chairman Burnham said he would attend the meeting.
 8. Surgeries – (i) Report on surgery held 24/02/18. Councillors Burnham and Perry reported that the surgery had been busy with a number of subjects raised: status of development at Homeleigh's Station Road site; Sainsbury's store; fly-tipping; parking; CQC's report on the Health Centre; trees at High Street and Chestnut Avenue; Village Centre; (ii) Appointment of representative for next surgeries: 31st March Councillor Silkin; 28th April Councillor Lain-Rose.
 9. Woodford Farm – Request for Parish Council recommendations relating to proposed new road name: 'Woodford Park'. Councillors NOTED the developer's preferred name of Woodford Park and RESOLVED to recommend APPROVAL to MBC.

Councillor Claridge left the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS (from Committee/Groups/Office on specific issues or as regular update)

1. Clerk's Report – The Clerk reported: that the salt bin taken from Pinnock Lane had been returned and the updated information passed to the police; meetings with Redrow Homes and Play Place had been postponed due to the adverse weather and would be rescheduled; the Community Payback team supervisors had been thanked for their work; the Office was liaising with the Public Rights of Way team about the damage caused to path KM302A by a delivery van. Councillor Lain-Rose added that the transfer of the Parish Council's bank account was occupying a considerable amount of office and councillor time due to difficulties encountered with NatWest. Councillors Buller and Lain-Rose recorded thanks to staff for their efforts during the adverse weather.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
 - a) Jubilee Field Premises and Building Management Agreement – for approval. Councillors NOTED the content of the draft agreement and that Councillor Silkin and the Clerk had commented on it. Subject to amendments arising from those comments, proposed by Councillor Buller, seconded by Councillor Sharp, Councillors RESOLVED to APPROVE the agreement to be effective from 1st April 2018.
 - b) Play Scheme – Request to use Staplehurst School as venue (previously agreed) at a cost of £875 (for decision). Councillors NOTED the cost was £25 higher than in 2017. RESOLVED: AGREE to hire the School premises at a cost of £875.
3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only
 - a) Friends of Wimpey Field – Councillor Spearink reported that planting of the trees should be completed by the end of the week.

REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNCILS, AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS for noting:-

1. Borough Councillor's Oral Report – Councillor Perry reported that Maidstone Borough Council's full council meeting had been postponed from the previous week and would be held on 7th March. A key subject for discussion would be the level of Council Tax.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS (written reports for noting):-

No reports.

URGENT MATTERS (at Chairman's discretion, information only items for noting or for decision at a future meeting)

None raised.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting comments were made about the following: (i) disappointment about the planned closure of the Forum when the old website is shut down; (ii) thanks to the Parish Council for its funding contribution to the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team; (iii) concerns about the SEHT's holding of a vulnerable residents' register in the light of new data protection legislation – the Chair of SEHT is discussing the issue with KCC.

Meeting closed 9.20pm.