

STAPLEHURST EMERGENCY HELP TEAM

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 27 January 2015 at The Free Church, Staplehurst

Present: Rory Silkin (Chair), Joan Buller, Anne Finlayson, Margaret Friswell, Bob Howse, Peter Jeffery, Mira Martin, Pam Payne, Bill Piper, Peter Spearink, Andrew Watson, Emma Wilson, Barbara Keel, Laureen Rodwell,

Apologies: Sue Bassett, Geoff Barber, Paul Butcher, Erika Lock,

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks: Rory welcomed us and remarked on the good turnout. He welcomed Barbara Keel and Emma Wilson as new members.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed.

Matters Arising:

Defibrillator. We are still awaiting its installation outside the library, though permission from KCC and an agreement to pay for its installation have now been agreed.

The KRF and KCC are aware of our existence.

Members were asked to check their telephone details for the re-issuing of the telephone tree.

The telephone system is still being developed between Rory and John Reardon.

AGM: This was agreed for the 23rd March in the Village Centre, subject to availability. A speaker is being negotiated.

At the AGM Rory will stand down as SEHT chairman. Andrew Watson was nominated as the new chairman.

Date of the next exercise: Anna and Erika are to discuss this, but a date in October 2015 is favoured. It was suggested that it could be a tabletop exercise to test the phone system, to see how we go about summoning help.

Update of the Emergency Plan: This is in progress, led by Anne Finlayson.

- Peter Jeffery agreed to check the list of vulnerable sites. [Action]
- Shelters: We still need to check and test that key-holders are aware that they need to admit us in an emergency. [Action]
- We need to check the 69 people presently on the volunteers list. [Action]
- We need to recruit more volunteers. Bill agreed to write an item for the Parish Magazine. [Action]
- Laureen to ask KCC emergency planning to check our paperwork at the next full meeting and to run through it with new members. [Action]

Floods: Andrew Watson explained his role as Flood Warden: It is not to get his feet wet, but to act as an intermediary, to organize affairs and to liaise with the emergency services.

Staplehurst Parish Council has two representatives on the River Buelton Community Involvement Group which makes environmental plans about flood protection measures. (For instance, meanders may be reinstated where the river has been canalized in the past.)

Sandbags were discussed. The Environment Agency is not obligated to protect individual properties: that is the owners' responsibility. SPC has no sandbags, and Andrew recommends non-involvement by SEHT.

Other Business:

1. Andrew Watson had previously been asked to check a problem at Mistle. This proved to be a BT junction box in the road outside whose lid fitted poorly. It was pointed out that BT junction boxes with metal lids in roadways proliferate throughout the parish.
2. Several new members require SEHT badges. They should send digital portraits to Sue Bassett for this purpose. [Action]
3. Mira was congratulated for her award relating to her anti-scramming campaign.

Date of the Next Meetings: June: t.b.a.; 17th September