

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 4th June 2018 at 8.05 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Forward (as indicated in the minutes), Kelly, Manning, Reardon, Sharp, Silkin, Smith and Burnham who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Perry, Riordan and Symes. Councillor Lain-Rose was absent.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in Items on the Agenda – none declared.

Requests for Dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Minute pages 1694-1699 of 21st May 2018 were APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Burnham and made available at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/full-council/>.

Councillor Forward rejoined the meeting, having left temporarily during public forum.

FINANCE REPORTS

No items.

CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:

1. Duckhurst Farm Motocross – Report on 2018 meeting arrangements. Councillors NOTED the Clerk's report on the Parish Office's mediation between residents and East Kent Schoolboy Scramble Club in respect of motocross meeting schedules at Duckhurst Farm. They NOTED the club wished to reschedule one of its planned four days of races, which would mean racing taking place over consecutive days (9th and part of 10th June). They commented that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction in the matter and NOTED the advice given by MBC Community Protection Team, which found the planned schedule satisfactory. They asked the Clerk to continue to mediate.
2. Older People's Champion – Correspondence from Maidstone Borough Council, seeking support for new initiative to appoint older people's champions (for decision). RESOLVED: ask that MBC clarify the objectives and the roles of the Older People's Champion; ask the Community Warden whether she had been approached or was interested in the initiative.
3. Parish Council Surgery – Report of surgery 26/05/18. Councillor Smith reported that neither she nor Councillor Perry had received any visits at May's surgery.
4. Staplehurst Fete 30/06/18 – Arrangements for Parish Council Stall. The Clerk explained that a rota had been drawn up to cover the Parish Council's stall and invited councillors to sign up.
5. Staplehurst Fireworks Event – Request for permission to use Jubilee Field for a fireworks event on 3rd November 2018 (for decision): arrangements to replicate 2017's event with additional traffic management measures. Proposed by Councillor Silkin, it was RESOLVED: consent to the use of Jubilee Field for a fireworks event on a date on or around 5th November in 2018, 2019 and 2020, with the Council to be satisfied with appropriate risk assessment, insurance cover and conduct of each year's event.
6. Staplehurst Scouts – Invitation to AGM 13/06/18. The invitation was NOTED by Councillors. Councillor Silkin said he would attend.
7. Staplehurst in Bloom – Notification of visit by assessor 28/06/18. Councillor Kelly said he would seek to attend the visit. The Clerk commented that the visit and assessment was a

'dry run' to provide feedback to inform an entry into the competition proper next year. Councillors AGREED that they would be pleased to discuss any questions with the Staplehurst coordinator.

8. Weald of Kent Protection Society – Invitation to AGM 14/06/18. It was NOTED that the date clashed with the next MBC Planning Committee but, if possible, the Parish Council would be represented.

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

1. Clerk's Report – The Clerk reported: the software and related training for use with CCTV cameras had been delivered; a site meeting with Redrow Homes took place on 31st May and the next one was scheduled for 27th June; the period for exercise of public rights in respect of the Parish Council's accounts had commenced on 4th June and would run until 13th July; Kent Highways had notified that works to repair paving at the Parade and replace removed trees were programmed - planting would be in October/November; Kent County Council had made available its member training on 28th June to parish and ward councillors – details would be circulated for councillors to indicate interest; thanks for donations had been received from The Samaritans and Citizens' Advice Bureau.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
 - 2.1. Community Enhancement Group – Recommendations from meeting report 30/04/18 (for decision) <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/community--leisure-group/>: (a) Accept free installation of water supply (report page 2); RESOLVED: ACCEPT the offer of free installation. (b) Agree expenditure on standpipe, water butt and metered water supply (report page 2); RESOLVED: AGREE expenditure of up to £250 on the standpipe and up to £100 on related materials and purchase of water butt (£89.99) and to enter into a metered water supply contract with South East Water. (c) Confirm operating procedures for works undertaken on Parish Council land, including communication and use of social media (report pages 2-4); RESOLVED: ENDORSE the Community Enhancement's modus operandi whereby works on Parish Council land are to be agreed by the Full Council with recommendations from Community Enhancement Group, with suitable publicity on website and Facebook to support major works; Councillor Reardon said he was looking into a new out-of-hours contact arrangement; Chairman Burnham observed that the Parish Council already had a social media policy, but it could usefully be reviewed by Communications Group. (d) Clarify access points around Wimpey Field & Woodland (pages 4-5). Councillors NOTED the report's comments about the access gate between The Bartons and Wimpey Field and the blocked access points at the emergency access route and woodland to the west. They observed that since the Group's meeting, matters had moved on, with the installation of new locks and signage at the former location. It was RESOLVED to engage with all involved parties, namely residents' group, the estate management company and Taylor Wimpey, and to undertake a check of relevant legal documentation (Councillor Silkin volunteered), to gain a full understanding of all the issues and constraints and seek a resolution to satisfy the interests of residents of both the immediate estate and the wider village. It was RESOLVED to communicate the Parish Council's intentions to interested parties both directly and via website/social media messages and to request residents' cooperation in the meantime by making responsible use of designated public footpaths to access the Wimpey Field.
 - 2.2. Neighbourhood Plan Review Group – Minutes <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/neighbourhood-plan-review-group/> (for noting) and recommendations (for decision) of meeting 15/05/18: (a) Meet Southern Water re Hen & Duckhurst Farm; the Clerk said he would chase up an outstanding request. (b) Make budget provision in 2019-20 for review of Neighbourhood Plan; NOTED and

referred to Finance & Strategy Group; (c) Comment on condition of The Parade (to be discussed by Community Enhancement Group 11/06/18); Councillors NOTED the Group’s concerns which they shared; whilst they had to recognise that the Parish Council had no ownership interest or jurisdiction over the Parade, they remained committed to working closely with the landowners and responsible authorities to bring about improvements. (d) Register King’s Head as an asset of community value; RESOLVED that an application be made to MBC requesting agreement to registration of the King’s Head.

2.3. Report on KCC Rail Summit 14/05/18 - Chairman Burnham’s report was NOTED and published at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/reports-for-noting/>.

3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only

3.1 Parish Council Annual Report - Councillor Buller thanked all who had assisted in the production, collation and distribution of the Parish Council’s annual report and the Community Events Group’s Fete Programme. Councillor Forward volunteered to make additional deliveries to help complete the process.

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

None received.

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

None received.

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

No items.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting residents spoke about litter issues, the closure of Marden Road, 20mph speed limits and access to Wimpey Field.

Meeting closed 9.45pm.