

Staplehurst Parish Council

Committee, Group or Sub Group

Neighbourhood Plan Review Group (NPRG) - Minutes

Meeting Date & Venue

8th March 2017 – 8 pm at Village Centre

Report Author - **John Kelly**

1. Introductions

Attending were) Joan Buller (JB), Tom Burnham (TB), John Kelly (JK), John Perry (JP), Robin Oakley (RO), Gill Smith (GS).and Sam Lain Rose (Observer).

2. Apologies - received from Margaret Arger (MA, Robin Kenworthy (RK), Colin Love (CL) and John Perry (JP).

3. Membership of Group

No change

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

5. Recognition of name - Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan Review Group

Members agreed that the new title was apt and fitting for any future Group.

6. Acceptance of Terms of Reference

Members acknowledged the new Terms of Reference for the Group and accepted these for any future Group.

7. Formal resignation of Chair

JK stated that tonight would be his last meeting and that he was formally stepping down. JK stated that he had stayed on longer than he had planned to but now was the right time for someone else to Chair the Group.

8. Appointment of new Chair

JK stated he had been asked whether the Group actually needed a Chairperson to Chair the Group. JK stated that although the Group was advisory there was a need to set Agendas, prioritise any future 'work' and report to/liaise with the Parish Council.

Members felt that it was vital to maintain the Group in view of the potential changes coming down the line.

JK asked whether any Member attending wished to stand for the position of Chairperson but nobody was forthcoming. JK stated he had received negative indications from CL.

JB stated that she had consulted with MA, prior to the meeting and that MA was willing to stand as Chairperson if there were no other candidates. RO stated that he was willing to take the minutes, in support of MA and that they had worked closely together in the past.

JK stated that the formal appointment of MA would be deferred to the next meeting and welcomed the offer by RO to the minutes.

JB wished to reiterate the thanks of the Group for the all the work and effort conducted by JK to date. JK acknowledged the comments but stated it was a team effort at the end of the day.

9. MBC Draft Local Plan - Nothing to report.

10. Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan:-

SLR stated that the Parish Council were now working to Objectives relating to the Supermarket, Station Regeneration, Traffic and Parking. Cllr Chris Claridge had personally taken on the Supermarket issue and the Group eagerly awaited the outcome of his efforts.

11. Solar Farm Appeal

JB stated there was still no news from the Planning Inspector concerning the Staplehurst Solar Farm.

TB stated that the Pullen Farm Solar Farm had been refused Planning Permission and was now going to Appeal on the 10th May 2017.

12. Future of Village Centre – update

An Extraordinary Meeting would be held on the 4th April 2017 in order for the formal presentation of the new proposed Constitution and any vote to take place.

13. Gypsy and Traveller Sites – Nothing to report.

14. Supermarket Update:-

See point 10 re Neighbourhood Plan and Sainsburys.

SLR commented about the status of the new ATM at the Spar Supermarket and that all was working well. Future decisions would be made regarding its final position near the front door on the outside wall.

15. Any other business

RO stated that the proposed changes to the Aviva No 5 Bus service timetable to Hawkhurst would have a negative impact and would force people to take the car.

RO stated that the Esso Garage had applied for an extension to its alcohol licence. A discussion took place concerning opening hours. The Group had mixed feelings although this was ultimately a matter for the Parish Council.

Concerns were raised about the under age purchasing of alcohol.
JK stated he believed people should have options/choices about when and where to shop and it was down to the various outlets to follow the law.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.00pm