

Staplehurst Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan Review Group (NPRG) – Minutes

3rd May 2017 - 8pm at The Village Centre

Minutes Secretary: Robin Oakley

1. Attendance

Attending were Chairman, Margaret Arger (MA), Minutes Secretary Robin Oakley (RO), John Kelly (JK), Cllr. Joan Buller (JB), Colin Love (CL), Cllr. Gill Smith (GS), Robin Kenworthy (RK) and Cllr. John Perry (JP).

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Tom Burnham, due to family commitments.

3. Membership of the Group

No change. Minutes are no longer to be sent to Steve Lenham or Cllr. Sam Lain-Rose.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 5th April, 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) Draft Local Plan Changes

RO reported that he had forwarded comments on the Draft Local Plan to the Parish Clerk and said that he had subsequently received comments from Cllr. Joan Buller. It was agreed that RO should forward JB's comments to the Parish Clerk. He was also requested by those present to emphasize that Staplehurst is still a Local Centre not a District Centre, as already commented on by Cllr. Tom Burnham.

6. Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan

JB reported that she and her group of Parish Councillors had sent a layout drawing of the properties and land in the station and industrial area to the Land Registry to find out the land plot numbers prior to a detailed search being carried out to find names of landowners.

7. Solar Farm Appeals

JB reported that the Planning Inspector's Appeal Report on the Pagehurst scheme is now available and the appeal has been dismissed. JB also reported that she and JP would be attending the planning enquiry on the Pullen Farm scheme which is being held in Maidstone on 10th May, 2017.

8. Future of Village Centre

JB reported that the Village Centre Committee are in discussion with NatWest Bank with a view to a mobile bank using the Village Centre Car Park to park and carry out business on Saturday mornings.

9. Gypsy and Traveller Sites

JP reported that MBC currently have around 40 planning applications for gypsy and traveller sites throughout the borough awaiting action.

10. Sainsbury's Supermarket

Nothing to report.

11. Staplehurst Post Office

RK reported that Marden Post Office, which recently re-located to the local convenience store cannot handle parcels which has resulted in persons wishing to post parcels having to travel to Staplehurst Post Office. RO reported that there is only one counter clerk at Staplehurst Post Office as the Postmaster is not prepared to pay for two persons. There is no firm news as to the proposed re-location of Staplehurst Post Office to Station Road.

12. The Railway Tavern

JB reported that MBC Planning Committee have refused the planning application to turn the Railway Tavern into a dwelling as this would be against the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan and the Maidstone Local Plan. JB expressed the personal hope that someone would now come forward to re-open the premises as a public house.

13. Any other business

RO reported that the Tunbridge Wells Draft Local Plan is now available for consultation and comment and that a public exhibition of the proposals will be held at the Vestrey Hall, Cranbrook on Friday 12th May, 2017 between 4pm and 7pm.

JK reported that the next Maidstone Local Plan Review date would be April, 2021.

JK also reported that MBC have said that it is important that Lenham has a master plan for housing.

JP reported that there is an ongoing judicial review on the A229 crossroads consequent upon there being a dispute between KCC and MBC as to whether the traffic lights and crossroads can cope with more traffic.

14. Dates of future meetings

The next meetings of the NPRG be on Wednesdays, 7th June, and 5th July, 2017 at 8.00pm in the Village Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.