

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 17th December 2018 at 7.40 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Forward, Kelly, Lain-Rose, Manning, Perry, Pontet, Riordan, Sharp, Silkin, Smith and Burnham who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr MJ Westwood

APOLOGIES: Councillors Reardon and Symes whose reasons for apology were accepted.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in Items on the Agenda – Councillors Ashby, Sharp and Silkin declared an interest in the street-trading licence application due to their positions on the Village Centre Management Committee and did not participate in the item.

Requests for Dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Minute pages 1733-1735 of 26th November 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 Perry commented that he thought that there were too many members of the Community Enhancement Group and that the membership should be reviewed soon.

FINANCE REPORTS

1. Accounts for payment - for approval. Proposed by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, the list of accounts for payment was APPROVED. Expenditure for the period 16th November to 11th December totalled £9,527.97; income for the period totalled £6.79. Councillor Kelly abstained.
2. Summation of Accounts – as at 11 December 2018 (for noting). NOTED by Councillors. Published at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/financial-info/>.
3. Finance & Strategy Group – Report of meeting 06/12/18 (for noting). NOTED by Councillors and published at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/finance--strategic-planning-group/>. Councillor Lain-Rose requested that an allowance for new dedicated e-mail addresses should be made in the draft 2019-20 budget.

CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:

1. Street Trading Licence – Consultation by MBC about application received from Pizza d'Onore to sell pizzas at Lodge Road for 12 trading days on a trial basis (for comment by 20/12/18). Councillors commented that they had no objection to the requested trial and recommended that consideration of a more permanent arrangement should particularly take into account experience of traffic at the new location.

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

1. Clerk's Report – The Clerk reported: (i) Christmas Lights - after some delay in receiving the licence from KCC, the Christmas lights had been installed; all lights had been working, but since then the Parish Office had needed to engage contractors and Kent Highways to attend to faults; (ii) Footpath KM311 – the path on land between The Bartons and Henhurst Farm field had been unblocked; a new path was being laid parallel to it; (iii) Surrenden Field – the pavilion door had been repaired after an incident that had been reported to police and insurers; (iv) Hen & Duckhurst Farm - a meeting was being arranged with developers to discuss site issues; MBC had opened two enforcement case files relating to breaches of planning conditions – Councillor Perry commented that he was pressing for action; (v)

- Footpath KM312 – after some delay, solicitors acting for the transferor of the land (Carillion) had sent draft documentation for review; (vi) Christmas Social – the Clerk thanked the Deputy Clerk and Parish Support Officer for their hard work in organising the event.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
 - a. Communications Group – Report of meeting 23/10/18. Noted by Councillors and published at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/communications-group/>.
 - b. Neighbourhood Plan Review Group – Minutes of meeting 28/11/18. Noted by Councillors and published at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/neighbourhood-plan-review-group/>. The Group's review of proposed revisions to the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan is to be discussed by Full Council in January.
 - c. Neighbourhood Plan for Cranbrook & Sissinghurst – Report of presentation attended by Chair & Secretary of Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan Review Group (06/12/18). The report was NOTED with thanks by Councillors.
 - d. Neighbourhood Plan for Goudhurst – Report of consultation event attended by Chair & Secretary of Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan Review Group (08/12/18). The report was NOTED with thanks by Councillors.
 3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only.
 - a. Loose Neighbourhood Plan (Min 1734) – Councillor Buller reported that she had circulated to Councillors her comments on the plan, which had been submitted to Loose Parish Council and Maidstone Borough Council. She reported that there was little housing development envisaged and the impact on Staplehurst via A229 traffic would be very minor.

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

1. Borough Councillor's Report – Councillor Perry reported: he and Borough Councillor Brice had donated their MBC grant allowances (£1,000 each) to the Jubilee Field Management Committee, for which Councillor Riordan recorded the committee's thanks; MBC had approved its new strategic plan and medium-term financial strategy; the review of the Local Plan was under way – MBC recognised that consultation needed to improve; he was hopeful that MBC would grant the Parish Council a lease of 125 years over Surrenden Field – Councillor Lain-Rose asked for details of the conditions so that the Parish Council could make a formal decision and make appropriate maintenance arrangements.
2. KALC Maidstone Area Committee – Minutes of meeting 28/11/18. NOTED by Councillors and published at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/reports-for-noting/>.

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

1. Maidstone & District Neighbourhood Watch – Report of Annual General Meeting 29/11/18. Councillor Buller's report was NOTED by Councillors and published at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/reports-for-noting/>.

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

No items.

Chairman Burnham thanked all parish councillors and staff for their work in 2018. Councillor Buller thanked Chairman Burnham for his chairmanship.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: Before the meeting a resident commented that American servicemen whose names were included in the Remembrance service roll of honour should be commemorated by a memorial in the church. He asked the Parish Council to consider facilitating this and offered to assist in taking such a project forward.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.