

STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP
Minutes of meeting held on 24th May, 2023 at 7.45pm

1. **Present**, Cllr. Margaret Arger, (MA) Chairman, Robin Oakley, Secretary (RO), Joan Buller (JB), Cllr. Joris Eerdeken (JE),
2. **Apologies:** Richard Smith, Tom Burnham & Colin Love..
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 12th April, 2023:** Agreed.
4. **Election of Chairman.** In view of the lack of members attending it was agreed that the election of a Chairman would be held over until the next meeting.
5. **Group Membership.** It was formally agreed that Mrs. Joan Buller, consequent upon her resignation as a parish councillor, should continue her membership of the group as a resident member.
6. **Proposed new homes and a care home to be built on land to the South of Marden Road by Ferham Homes.** The developers have indicated that they wish to make a presentation to the Parish Council and the Chairman said that they have been advised to contact the Parish Clerk. It is considered that this presentation should take place at the start of a Parish Council meeting which is open to the public. It was pointed out that the hedge on the north side of the site bordering Marden Road has a protection order on it.
7. **Housing Needs Survey.** The Parish Clerk has advised that he has still not heard from Tessa O'Sullivan as to when she can start work on the survey. It was agreed that this delay is now affecting the final progress of the Group's work and consideration should be given to giving her a deadline to start and finish the work, or in absence of such an undertaking, finding someone else to undertake the work. It was noted that Colin Love's proposed additional questions were considered to be very useful and appropriate, **Post Meeting Note: The Parish Clerk has now received word from Tessa O'Sullivan that she is going to start on her new job on 1st June, 2023.**
8. **Maidstone Local Plan Review.** Cllr. Arger and Joan Buller reported on their attendance at the Maidstone Local Plan Review before the Planning Inspector. Cllr. Arger's report is included as an attachment to these minutes. MA will attend the next session on 5 June 2023 which is on 'Achieving Good Design'. MA and JB will attend the meeting on 6 June 2023 which is on 'Gypsy & Travellers and Housing'.
9. **Information from Southern Water.** RO reported that further information has still not been received from Southern Water and the Parish Clerk is chasing Southern Water for the 2022 results..

Any other business

10. **Solar Farm at Goudhurst Road.** It was noted that nothing has been heard of this proposed development in recent months. It was agreed that Deborah Jenkins, Deputy Clerk should be asked whether she can approach Cranbrook & Sissinghurst, and/or Goudhurst Parish Councils, or Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils to find out what is happening, as much of the site is in Staplehurst parish.
11. **Maidstone Borough Council's Design and Sustainability Plan, April 2023.** MA said that she has a copy of this plan and she is concerned that there are lots of issues affecting Staplehurst in relation to Design and Sustainability, many of which are typical of the problems which have arisen on the Dickens Gate, Bovis and Redrow developments. MA will prepare a draft response.

Provisional date of next meeting: 21 June 2023. A decision will be made a week before as to whether there is sufficient material for a meeting to be worthwhile.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Robin Oakley 26 May, 2023