

# STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023

### **Public Forum**

A resident raised the point about rabbit protection to the fencing at the Allotments – see item 4.3

### **Borough Councillor's Report (Standing Item):**

Clr Perry stated that MBC working on their budget for 2024/25 that there is a motion to give Alessia Russo the Freedom of the Borough.

Clr Riordan raised the point regarding a follow up meeting with South East Water, the MP and KCC regarding the water supply / shortage issues.

Clr Farragher asked was there any compensation for the "Spring" water pressure issue that affected some in the village? Clr Riordan to ask.

### **County Councillor's Report (Standing item):**

Clerk to write to Clr Parfit-Reid inviting her to next Council meeting.

### **Co-option of Parish Councillor**

Following a discussion Clr Riordan proposed and Clr Hotson seconded to co-opt Mr Ahmed onto the Parish Council – agreed unanimously

(Mr Ahmed joined the Council meeting but abstained from all votes as he did not have the confidential paperwork)

**Present:** Clrs Riordan, Perry, Farragher, Alesi, Pett, Martin, Arger, Ahmed, Mclaughlin, Sharp, Eerdeken, Castro, Ash and the Clerk.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Clr Mclean
2. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:**
  - 2.1. **Declarations of Lobbying - Na**
  - 2.2. **Changes to the Register of Interests - NA**
  - 2.3. **Interests in Items on the Agenda – item 4.6 Clrs Eerdeken, Ash and Arger**
  - 2.4. **Requests for Dispensation – Agreed to speak and vote for item 4.6 Clrs Eerdeken, Ash and Arger**

### **3. APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES:**

Pages 2129 – 2133 of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 available at [Full Council - Staplehurst Parish Council - Staplehurst Parish Council, Staplehurst, Tonbridge \(staplehurst-pc.uk\)](https://www.staplehurst-pc.uk) proposed by Clr Arger and seconded by Clr Riordan agree by majority 8 for 0 against and 6 abstained, duly signed by Councillor Riordan

Signed by Chairman.....Dated.....

#### 4. **FINANCE REPORTS & PROPOSALS**

##### 4.1. **Payment list**

Clr Riordan proposed and Clr Farragher seconded to approve the payment list below – by majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

<b>Approved Payments 2nd August - 22nd August 2023</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Choice Support - Village Planter Maintenance July	410.80
J Birkby Plumbing - Lavatory Removal Youth Club	90.00
Amazon - Stationery	43.97
Bradley Hawkins - Mowing/strimming Wimpey Field July	325.00
Bumbles - Plants & Compost GSG	184.82
Homeleigh Timber - Gym Sign Plate Fixing SF	3.05
Homeleigh Timber - Grip Glove Caretaker	1.51
Homeleigh Timber - Parts for Skatepark Repairs JF	7.64
Homeleigh Timber - Paint Brushes Planter Painting CP	42.22
J Birkby Plumbing - Toilet Repair Bell Lane Toilets	120.00
HMRC - Tax & NI July	1,822.77
Commercial Services Ltd - Grounds Maintenance SF	148.75
Payroll Costs August	6,166.77
MBC - Road Closure Licence Remembrance Parade	75.00
Sage Payroll - August	9.60
Opus Energy - Surrenden Pavilion Energy July	36.04
Opus Energy - Parish Office Energy July	106.55
Opus Energy - Bell Lane Toilets Energy July	31.03
BT - Broadband & Phone Charges Aug-Oct	218.39
npower - Street Light Energy July	67.82
Telecoms World - Winter Warm Rooms Mobile Phone Line Aug	11.99
Countrystyle Recycling - Waste Collection July	69.84
SAGE UK Accounts - Annual Subscription	319.20
Lloyds - Bank Charges July	7.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>10,319.76</b>

**TOTAL PETTY CASH EXPENDITURE**

2.89

##### 4.2. **Summation and Balance sheet - Noted**

##### 4.3. **Allotment Fencing**

Following a discussion, all three companies are good quality but maybe the specification needs a review as the cost is very high for a relatively small project. As the developer has provided a ranch style fence, hedging and has said they are installing rabbit proofing, do we need additional fencing? Council could just provide gate for entrance to car park. In addition there are still issues with the land transfer, including a gap between the allotments and access, so it was generally felt that a decision should be deferred and report back to Council.

Clr Riordan proposed and Clr Hotson seconded to defer a decision and report back to Council - agreed majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

Signed by Chairman.....Dated.....

**4.4. Bank Signature**

Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Sharp seconded to approve the resolution below – agreed majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

**Resolution:** To appoint Cllr Ash as a bank signatory on the Council's Lloyds bank account

**4.5. Horse gate at Surrenden Field**

Following a discussion, where it was confirmed that we lease the land from MBC and would need their permission Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Sharp seconded to approve the resolution below – agreed majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

**Resolution:** To consider options in the report and delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman up to £1,000 to proceed as soon as possible to install drop bollards for Nicholson Walk entrance to Surrenden Field.

(Note Cllr Perry requested a future report on Wimpey Fields due to similar issues)

**4.6. Housing Needs Survey 2023**

Following a discussion which emphasised the need for this Housing Needs survey Cllr Perry proposed and Cllr Martin seconded to approve the resolution below – agreed majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

**Resolution:** To consider the recommendation of the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Group and appoint CNB Housing Insight at £8,522 plus VAT plus a nominal fee for a presentation as the Housing Needs Consultant

Cllr Hotson raised the point that we are using General Reserves and need to budget for a Housing Needs survey every five years.

**4.7. Skate park repairs**

Following a discussion where it was raised the need to research with users of the skate parks potential improvements and report back in the future.

Cllr Sharp proposed and Cllr Arger seconded to approve to accept one quote – agreed majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

**4.8 Street light energy – information to follow**

Following a discussion, in which Cllr Hotson monitoring of street lights came to the fore, as we have only 13 unmetered street lights our options are limited to npower. Cllr Perry proposed and Cllr Arger seconded to approve the resolution below – agreed majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

**Resolution:** to agree to stay with npower and increase in the energy price to 50.188p/kWh

**5. CLERKS REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

Clerk raised the point that the Sainsbury bus meeting had been delayed until tomorrow. That we still have no information for the fitness instructors using Surrenden Field and we are still updating the Health and Safety work at the Youth Club. That the Clerk forward an email from MBC regarding the "lack of a link road" Also Cllr Hotson has completed the consultation on the Community Services, including the role of the Community Warden on behalf of the Parish Council

Signed by Chairman.....Dated.....

## **6. PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION and DECISION**

### **6.1 Playscheme 2023 Report**

Following a discussion Cllr Arger proposed and Cllr Riordan seconded to note the success of the Playscheme – agreed 13 majority for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

**To Note:** the success of Playscheme 2023 and Clerk to write a thank you letter to Play Space staff.

### **6.2 Jubilee Field – ditch clearance specification**

Following a discussion it was agreed this would complex due to the nature of the ditch and hedges intermingling in parts, Cllr Riordan proposed and Cllr Castro seconded to approve the resolution below – agreed majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

**Resolution:** To approve the specification set out in the report to clear the Headcorn Rd ditch around the Jubilee Field.

### **6.3 Naming of land adjacent to West View**

Following a discussion in which the general view was that we had followed Council policy, that the Tipples family have a long, outstanding relationship with the Parish and have farmed extensively in the village. That past members of the family have been instrumental in the village: Chairman of Parish Council, Chairman of Cricket and Tennis club, Trustees of Village Hall, supporters of the Church and a former President of Kent County Cricket. In addition a current member of the family is a High Court Judge. It was suggested that the developers marketing department need to use the family history to help market Tipples Close.

Cllr Perry proposed and Cllr Hotson seconded to approve the resolution below – agreed majority 13 for, 0 against and 1 abstained.

**Resolution:** to name the properties adjacent to West View, Tipples Close plus forward the Housing Policy and the family background to assist the developers to understand the reasons

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting: N/A**

Thank you card from Village Golf Club

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

### **8.1. Chairman's Report**

The yellow lines at Gybbon Rise have finally been done.

The Community Pay Back team – helped by Cllr Alesi – did an excellent job to paint the flower contains and also they have tidied up around the Community Centre

Still chasing KCC regarding the Cranbrook Rd pedestrian crossing

That we need to consider merit awards – both Adult and Junior as this will quickly come around.

Signed by Chairman.....Dated.....

**8.2. Committee and working group minutes - noted**

- 8.2.1. Planning Committee minutes of 14th August 2023.
- 8.2.2. Road Safety Group next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- 8.2.3. JFMC next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- 8.2.4. SCEnic meeting to be arranged
- 8.2.5. 3G all-sports pitch working group minutes 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- 8.2.6. Employment, Finance and Strategy Group next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- 8.2.7. NDP Review meeting minutes 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- 8.2.8. Greener Staplehurst Group meeting to be arranged

**9. REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS (written reports for noting)  
- No items****10. URGENT MATTERS****11. SPECIAL MOTION & REPORT – NA****Public forum**

A resident reminded all of the Battle of Britain service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and the dedication of a plaque Jean Liddicoat.

The NDP group are still chasing Southern Water regarding discharge figures into the River Beult in 2022.

Can we support keeping the railway station ticket office open.

**12. Confidential****12.1 CCTV update report**

The Cllrs discussed the future of CCTV in the village

Meeting closed 9pm