



STAPLEHURST EMERGENCY HELP TEAM

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at The Free Church, Staplehurst

Present: Andrew Watson (Chair) Bill Piper
Mira Martin Bob Howse
Chris Ralph Adele Sharp (Cllr)
Colin Bowden (Cllr)

Apologies: Joan Buller, Peter Jeffery, Laureen Rodwell, Rory Silkin, Maria Norris, Paul Linaker, Craig and Emma Wilson, Diane Buch, Karen Langmaid

Concern was expressed at the limited attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed.

Matters Arising:

Working with neighbouring villages: Marden has expressed interest, and will be involved in the forthcoming exercise. No other interest has been noted, but invitations to exercises will continue to be sent.

Telephone tree: The tree needs updating. Adele volunteered to contact Laureen and then to do the updating.

Agenda:

Staplehurst's 125th Anniversary. (Saturday, 26th October) It was agreed that it important that SEHT be represented. Andrew will set up a table in which information will be available, particularly with a view to reminding people of our role and to recruiting. A statement of our modus operandi should be shown on a notice.

Mira suggested that people who might be vulnerable in the event of a utilities failure should be reminded to contact the utilities companies in preparation.

In addition, people will be invited to contribute the names of anyone whom they know who should be on the Vulnerable Residents' Register.

Exercise: The next exercise had been postponed because it clashed with the 125th Anniversary event. The new date is **Saturday 23rd November**. The plot will be based on last year's exercise.

Andrew expressed his appreciation of Maggie Marks' (Free Church admin.) cooperation in accommodating changes.

Bill suggested a plot for a future exercise to be based on a complete communications breakdown following a cyber attack. Even if this is too extreme to be likely, the exercise itself will provide useful experience for less serious events. Discussion followed and there was general approval.

Other Business:

Colin asked if there is a statement of our purpose. Andrew referred him to the Parish website, but also undertook to check that that is up to date.

The Date of the Next meeting was agreed for Wednesday 15th January 2020.