

# STAPLEHURST EMERGENCY HELP TEAM



## Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd March 2015 in South Hall, Staplehurst

**Attendance:** See addendum

**Apologies:** Sue Bassett, Joan and Malcolm Buller, David Staunton-Lambert, Barbara Keel, Bob Howse, Paul Linaker, Pam Payne, Donna Maxa

**In the Chair:** Rory Silkin welcomed all those present.

**Kent Resilience Team:** Teresa Young spoke first, reporting on the progress of the Kent Resilience Team which was formed in April 2014. The KRT brings together Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Services and KCC Emergency Planning together with the NHS and the Environment Agency. The KRT is located at Tovil at KFRS's headquarters, so that each of the constituent services knows the others it's working with.

On behalf of Rob Wiles, Teresa reassured the meeting that the work of Staplehurst Emergency Help Team is well thought of, and is held up as an exemplar for other parishes. She also assured us that Maidstone Borough Council Emergency Team is aware of SEHT and holds us in high regard. No other parish council has organized its own exercises.

She asked the meeting whether SEHT would be prepared to join exercises in the voluntary sector, and there was a very positive response. There is a training day for Flood Wardens, on 17th July at Lenham Community Centre, and Teresa invited SEHT to nominate people to attend. It was pointed out that Andrew Watson is already a Flood Warden.

Knowing what to prepare for is based on an assessment of the threats and risks in Kent and the rest of the UK. Examples include an outbreak of Ebola or of Scarlet Fever, A Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack (MTFA) or a CBRN (nuclear accident). Exercises are held on a regular basis, both live and table-top exercises.

A new resilient communities template is being prepared which will inform local teams what is required in an emergency. Asked whether a new plan is required and whether we need to act on it, it was agreed that the new template was worth looking at to see whether SEHT needs to make any adjustments.

Teresa was warmly thanked for her report.

**The minutes of last year's AGM** were approved and signed.

**Rory reported** on the last year. This is the fifth AGM of SEHT. SEHT has come to understand better its role and its position in the emergency response world. Good emergency response depends on planning, training and checking equipment. Our main asset is our local knowledge. Since the last AGM we have drafted our terms of reference, updated the emergency plan, conducted a desk-top exercise and reminded people how to prepare for possible winter-time backouts. Rory thanked Erika and Anne for arranging the desktop exercise, Sue and Laureen for the administration and Bill for the minutes. As he is standing down as Chairman, he thanked members for their participation and support.

**Election of Chairman:** Andrew Watson was nominated and elected unopposed.

**Craig Wilson**, a new member of SEHT, spoke. He outlined his career, which started in South Africa, and developed in emergency response work. He is now a professional emergency planner and so he was warmly welcomed to the team.

**AOB:** There will be a meeting in June, the exact date to be advised.  
Another meeting will be held on 17th September.  
There will also be an exercise in October.

### **SEHT: Attendance at AGM, March 2015**

Geoff Barber	Bill Piper
Jason Bardell	Chris Ralph
Graham Buch	Laureen Rodwell
Margaret Friswell	Rory Silkin
Peter Jeffery	Peter Spearink
Erika Lock	Andrew Watson
Mira Martin (KCC Warden)	Craig Wilson
	Emma Wilson