

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
held at Staplehurst Village Centre on
Monday 18th December 2017 at 7.55 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ashby, Buller, Claridge, Gosling, Lain-Rose, Manning, Perry, Reardon, Riordan, Sharp, Silkin, Smith, Spearink and Burnham who was in the Chair.
Parish Clerk: Mr M J Westwood

APOLOGIES: None as all members were present.

COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the Agenda:-

Changes to the Register of Interests – none declared.

Interests in Items on the Agenda – none declared.

Requests for Dispensation – none requested.

APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES Minute pages 1665-1667 of 4th December 2017 were APPROVED by Councillors, signed by Chairman Burnham and made available at http://staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.

FINANCE REPORTS:-

1. Accounts for payment - for approval. Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Smith, Councillors RESOLVED nem con to APPROVE the list of accounts for payment. Expenditure for the period 14/11/17 to 11/12/17 was £13,878.56 and income for the same period was £205.92.
2. Summation of Accounts – as at 11th December 2017. Noted by Councillors and published at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/minutes_of_the_last_meetings.aspx.
3. Shipping Container – To consider quotations for a 20' shipping container and accessories for storage use at Jubilee Field (for decision). Councillor Riordan explained that incidents of vandalism had accentuated the need for secure storage to protect equipment owned by both the Parish Council and the Jubilee Field Management Committee. Councillors considered prices from three suppliers for a 20-foot shipping container. Councillor Riordan explained that an indicative cost for a 'used once' container delivered to Jubilee Field would be £2,370 and requested agreement to spend up to £2,500 to allow for additional accessories such as shelving and any final adjustment to delivery cost. Proposed by Councillor Riordan, seconded by Councillor Lain-Rose, Councillors RESOLVED to AGREE expenditure up to £2,500 on a storage container.

CORRESPONDENCE & PARISH ISSUES for decision or noting:

1. Land North of Henhurst Farm – Correspondence: Maidstone Borough Council's response to a Freedom of Information request covering how it addressed the conflict with the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Plan when allocating the site in the emerging Local Plan. Councillors NOTED the response and RESOLVED to refer it to the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group for consideration. They NOTED the response stated that MBC had undertaken formal public consultation but had no specific records relating to discussions about the allocation of land north of Henhurst Farm. Councillor Perry said he believed the Parish Council was right to pursue the issue because MBC's assessment of any formal planning application would reference the relevant policy in the Local Plan.
2. Parish Council Surgeries – (i) Reports on key issues raised (JB/MA) – subjects discussed were local flooding, Christmas lights, plant beds at The Parade, licensing of a Big Issue vendor; (ii) Appointment of representatives for future dates – 23 December no surgery; 30 December – Borough Councillor Perry's surgery; 6 January Councillor Sharp; 13 January Councillor Burnham.

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

1. Clerk's Report – the Clerk reported: installation of the new zebra crossing in Marden Road would be delayed until after the Christmas period; the formal consent to install extended parking restrictions in Headcorn Road had been agreed and Kent Highways would notify the date for installation of the double yellow lines in due course; thanks were extended to all who had helped organise the Parish Council's Christmas social event for local volunteers.
2. Written Reports on Committee, Group and Project activities - for decision or noting
 - a) Wimpey Field – Proposal to create a new group to look after the day to day running of Wimpey Field and to make proposals on annual expenditure and new initiatives. Councillors Spearink and Claridge spoke about a proposed approach to the future work effort at Wimpey Field as set out in the previously circulated 'Discussion Paper – Friends of Wimpey Field'. Councillor Claridge commented: following completion of much of the preparatory work at Wimpey Field, 2018 would mark a new phase of regular maintenance; overseeing work and managing financial and legal matters fell naturally within the remit of the Community Enhancement Group; for the day-to-day running and maintenance it was felt a new group comprising residents and councillor representatives would be appropriate, such group to be known as Friends of Wimpey Field; the existing Wimpey Field Group of councillors could then be dissolved. Councillor Perry commented that ultimately the Parish Council as owner was responsible for Wimpey Field. He felt it was important to document the relationship between the Community Enhancement Group and the proposed Friends group. Proposed by Councillor Lain-Rose, seconded by Councillor Perry, Councillors RESOLVED: Council recognises formal ownership of Wimpey Field is held by Staplehurst Parish Council; the Friends of Wimpey Field is to be established as an advisory group; the Community Enhancement Group is asked to draft a document setting out the relationship between the Group and the Friends of Wimpey Field. Councillor Lain-Rose expressed thanks to Councillor Spearink for his work to date on the Wimpey Field and to former Councillor Paul Kelly for his early involvement in and encouragement of the project.
3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors – for information only
 - a) Fireworks Event 04/11/17 – Cllr Riordan reported that the event had been a great success thanks to the drive of the organisers, a great team effort and the generosity of sponsors. The event would prove a good foundation for 2018 and lessons to facilitate improvements had been noted. Estimated attendance was 2,500 to 3,000 people. From the funds raised some £1,500 has been donated to local groups.

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

1. Borough Councillor's Oral Report – Councillor Perry reported that he had identified a contact interested in plans for regeneration of the railway station and would seek to arrange a meeting to involve Councillors Buller, Burnham and Smith and MBC's Director of Regeneration and Place.
2. Kent Association of Local Councils – Minutes of KALC Area Committee meeting 27/11/17. Noted and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/kent_association_of_local_councils.aspx.
3. Kent Crime Prevention & Safety Conference 07/12/17 – Report by Chair of Staplehurst Neighbourhood Watch. Noted by Councillors and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/police_liaison.aspx.

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

1. Staplehurst Patient Participation Group – Minutes of AGM 25/10/17. Noted and posted at http://www.staplehurstvillage.org.uk/patient_participation_group_at_health_centre.aspx.

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

No items

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM: After the meeting Borough Councillor Brice thanked members of the Parish Council for their work during 2017.

Awaiting Adoption