

STAPLEHURST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY 2023

Present: 6 Councillors, 9 residents and the Clerk.

1. Welcome.

Cllr Riordan welcomed everyone to the meeting and then presented Christine Ralph with the KALC Community Award for her outstanding service to the community over many years.

Cllr Riordan then introduced the guest speaker David Manse from the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance.

2. Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance

The presentation is available on the website. Some key points:

- Formed 32 years ago Kate Chivers and the people of Kent. Originally in the offices upstairs at Staplehurst Community Centre. Expanded into Kent and Sussex and now Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance
- Now based in Redhill with a base at Faversham so covered if bad weather one way or the other
- Has 3 helicopters, on call 24/7 and a crew of 1 x pilot, 1 x air crew, 1 x AE doctor and 1 x paramedic. All highly trained and employed by Trust.
- Also support from emeritus staff – consultants / forces etc
- Technology made the helicopters into “flying trauma station” – links to AE department – can carry to any in the Southeast and London. Have adapted an “app” to turn your phone on the scene into a camera – so you can help and show the Doctor mid flight the scene / injuries.
- Carry Blood – links with a special blood transfusion teams’ that supply the Air Ambulance
- Do research and share knowledge with other similar units around the country.

Q How is the fund raising going?

It has always been hard work but especially so in these challenging times

Q How much to run the service each year?

Just over £17 m, or £1 per person in Kent Surrey and Sussex.

Q Where are you based?

Based at Redhill, space plus direct link to “servicing helicopters” – which take 6 weeks

Q Any government funding?

Not directly but 10% of costs covered by NHS

Q Any other funding opportunities

If you go on the website – many alternatives

[Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex - Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex \(aakss.org.uk\)](http://aakss.org.uk)

Cllr Riordan Thanked the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance for their talk and great work that they do – a collection was made.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Adele Sharp proposed and Jose Costa seconded and all those present last year voted in favour of adopting the minutes from the 16th May 2002.

3. Parish Overview

Cllr Riordan said "So just give everyone a little bit of insight into what we have done in the last year as a parish council.

This was the last year on the Parish Council of Joan Buller. She was dedicated 40 years' service to the Parish Council and her knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed. We will so, so, miss her. However we know that she is enjoying a well-earned break as so is not hear tonight. as she is currently on holiday

We are delighted to have our Clerk Richard who joined us last July and all the team Jean and Deborah as well. They have helped to improve the whole running of our parish office, assisting the staff and councillors and help us press forward projects which we hope will be a huge benefit to our community.

We constantly engage with the police, Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council, various utility services and authorities to help with the everyday running the village.

We organise a twice a year community litter pick, which I am delighted to say is well attended by our parishioners to try and keep our village clean.

We regularly work with the community payback team to make various improvements, such as painting, cutting hedges, working on the telephone box cleaning paths and driveways cleaning gutters working at Surrenden field, the Jubilee field and throughout the village.

The Parish Council Greener Staplehurst group, do some fabulous work around the village, maintaining flower planters, planting wildflower areas and trees.

I'm delighted to say we now have some allotments on one of the new developments which the parish council are taking control of.

We work in partnership with all stakeholders to enhance facilities around the village working with play price to find a safe and enjoyable environment for the three week

summer long playscheme, we work with the Jubilee field management committee and football clubs to enhance facilities at our sports field, we maintain the skate park

This year we have taken ownership of the Youth Club building and I'm delighted to say facility is being enjoyed by many of our young people in the village.

We enjoyed supporting the Women's Institute celebrate their hundred year anniversary, we brighten up the village every year at Christmas time with Christmas motifs and a Christmas tree & lights at the parade, we support the village Remembrance Day parade, we constantly attempt to improve communication with our residents via our website, social media and village update magazine.

We have various projects in the pipeline at the moment. Many of you will be aware of an all-weather sports pitch, We are looking into at the Jubilee field. We want to improve the damaged brickwork at the parade area and install bicycle racks at there. We have agreed to install an outdoor adult gym at Surrenden Field.

The Road safety group are constantly looking to improve the road and pavement network, which I'm sure you would appreciate it's quite a difficult job at the moment

We are constantly heavily engaged in planning matters. We are regularly reviewing our neighbourhood plan policy and we are engaging with Maidstone Borough Council in relation to the local plan.

We also run our yearly volunteer, merit awards and further to the award that Christine Ralph has already received from us. We have another fabulous award from the Kent Association of local councils to present to her.

4. Kent County Councillor – Lottie Parfitt-Reid

Cllr Parfitt-Reid's annual report is on the Parish Council website. Some additional points made were

There are some very challenging decisions to be made as finances are so tight.

Biggest issue in the "post bag" is Pot holes, Pot holes and more Pot holes. This is a major issue. Due to the weather it is now 5 times worse than last year- significant damage to the roads and in Maidstone Borough Council area estimated at £1.8 million.

I know it is a pain please report them online and then they will get sorted out but there is a backlog.

Cllr parfit-Reid said how proud she was of helping local groups whether it is dealing with COVID or House hold support grants or small projects in the area

Work is moving ahead to expand Marden Primary School – next year / 18 months

However the consultation on the potential closure of

