

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
South Hall, Village Centre
Monday 21st February 2022 at 7.30p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillors Buller, Castro, Lain-Rose, Hotson, McLaughlin, McLean, McPhee, Perry, Sharp, Skinner, Spearink and Riordan who was in the Chair and Parish Clerk, Miss A Smith.

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Clifton for personal commitments and Councillor Bowden for health reasons.

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS regarding items on the agenda:

- 2.1. Declarations of Changes to the Register of Interests – None declared.
- 2.2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda. Councillor Buller declared an interest in item 4.3 and declared that she did not wish to participate in the item nor vote. Councillor Hotson declared an interest in item 8.1.1, as the Chair of Staplehurst Monarchs Youth Football Club.
- 2.3. Requests for Dispensation. Councillors Hoston requested and was granted a dispensation to participate in discussion and voting on item 8.1.1 in accordance with Section 33(2)(c) of the Localism Act 2011. Councillor Riordan had a dispensation for his term in office already approved that covered item 8.1.1.

3. APPROVAL OF FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

- 3.1. Pages 1973 – 1978 of 31st January 2022 available at <http://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/full-council/>. It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes which were signed by Councillor Riordan.

4. FINANCE REPORTS & PROPOSALS

- 4.1. Accounts for Payment – for approval.

It was RESOLVED that the listed accounts for payment were APPROVED. Expenditure for the period 26th January 2022 to 15th February 2022 totalled £12,022.27; income for the period was £5.44.

Approved Payments 26th January - 15th February 2022	Amount
Homeleigh Timber - Padlock & Chain Wimpey Field Gate	34.61
Hartlake Garden Services - Wimpey Field Gates	4,970.00
Hugofox Ltd - Silver Subscription February	23.99
Staplehurst Community Centre - Office Rent February	350.00
Staplehurst Community Centre - Hall Hire February	94.50
Foxy Locks Kent - Youth Club Replacement Lock	185.00
Graham Upton - Jubilee Field Skatepark Graffiti Paint	500.00
KALC - Planning Conference Cllr McLaughlin	60.00
KCC Commercial Services - Offices Stationery	51.41
KCS - Office Photocopier Rental Sept - Dec	208.22
Arthur J Gallagher - Youth Club Buildings Insurance	163.75
Staplehurst Community Centre - Office Rent March	350.00
Staplehurst Community Centre - Hall Hire March	67.50
Paxman Services (UK) Ltd - Bell Lane Toilets Clean/Open Jan	736.84

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Paxman Services (UK) Ltd - Bell Lane Toilets Sundries Jan	84.36
Balanced Audio Visual - Surrenden Field CCTV Camera	2,736.91
Amazon - Laser Printing Paper	38.84
Homeleigh Timber - Caretaker Painting Accessories	14.59
Choice Support - Planter Maintenance February	410.80
Adobe Ltd - Subscription January	15.17
Amazon - Cable Ties	6.89
Amazon - Memory Sticks x5	41.98
Amazon - Storage Boxes x5	29.49
Amazon - Disposable Face Masks	12.99
Post Office - Village Update Stamps 2nd Class x430	283.80
Business Stream - Surrenden Pavilion Water Nov-Jan	11.48
Business Stream - Wimpey Field Water Nov-Jan	11.48
Business Stream - Bell Lane Toilet Water January	39.73
BT - Office Telephone & Broadband Feb-Apr	200.12
Countrystyle Recycling - Waste Collection January	64.80
Lloyds Bank Charges - February	7.00
Arron Services Ltd - Hosted Exchange Service February	214.32
TOTAL CURRENT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE	12,020.57

TOTAL PETTY CASH EXPENDITURE

1.70

4.2. Summation of Accounts – for noting

NOTED by Councillors and published at <https://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/community/staplehurst-parish-council-13607/financial-info/>.

4.3. To provide a donation to the Free Church for the provision of a play area

Following a short discussion Councillors RESOLVED to APPROVE a grant under s19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 of £1,500 to the Staplehurst Free Church to pay for the groundworks specific to the creation of a new children's play area and conditional that users of the play area was not charged. It was AGREED that this would be funded from reserves.

4.4. Purchase of anti-graffiti glaze for the murals at the Skate Park and Caretaker time

It was RESOLVED to RATIFY the decision to purchase anti-graffiti glaze to cover the new murals at the Skate Park at a cost of £249.99 + VAT. It was also RESOLVED to APPROVE up to 8 hours overtime at an approximate cost of £85 for the Caretaker to apply to anti-graffiti glaze.

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND PARISH ISSUES5.1. Request to use Jubilee Field

Councillors RESOLVED to APPROVE that Staplehurst Monarchs Football Club and Staplehurst Junior Monarchs Football Club could use the Jubilee Field on Saturday 11th June for a Family Fun Day to raise monies for the proposed 3G All Weather Pitch.

5.2. Ratification of Group Members

Councillors RESOLVED to APPROVE

- Cllr Kelly McLean to join the Road Safety Group, and Platinum Jubilee Celebration Group
- Cllr Bill McLaughlin to join the Planning Committee and Community Enhancement Group and Greener Staplehurst Group and to be a representative on the JMFC.

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6. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

6.1. Clerks Report

The Clerk advised Councillors that it was time to start planning the Summer Play Scheme, and requested that two Councillor work with the office to oversee the preparations. Councillors Buller and McLean volunteered. She also advised Councillors that in conjunction with the Chair and the Chair of the Greener Group, she had been successful in securing a free large wooden planter being offered from Maidstone Borough Council which would be delivered and positioned at the entrance to the Jubilee Field for free. The Clerk advised Councillors that the Temporary Youth Club Working Group had identified several items of furniture that needed disposing of as it didn't meet current safety standards or was surplus to requirement and that some might be able to be passed on for small donations. She sought Council's confirmation that she could arrange this disposal. Councillors confirmed they were happy for her to proceed, with the caveat any unsafe items were disposed on and not passed on. The Clerk proposed that the 18th May had been selected for the Annual Parish Meeting and invited Councillors to note the date and to send in suggestions for speakers. Following Councillor Smith stepping down, the Clerk confirmed that she now needed volunteers to lead the Village Clean up on the 9th April. Councillors Riordan and McLean volunteered. Finally, the Clerk updated Councillors on the work she had done to secure a response from Arriva over the recent issues of cancelled bus services over the weekends of the 30th January and 4th February and the poor-quality service generally. She stated that she had not been able to get a meaningful response or explanation despite contacting them on multiple occasions. She advised Councillors that County Councillor Parfitt-Reid along with Borough Councillor Perry were now also pushing this matter forward and Councillor Parfitt-Reid was looking to set up a meeting with the KCC Cabinet Member and Arriva to discuss the service problems. Additionally, Councillor Parfitt-Reid had brought to the Clerk's attention that KCC were entering into a consultation on potential reduction in subsidised bus services, which included several of the services from the No. 5 Bus route. After considerable discussion and continued dissatisfaction over the service being expressed by Councillors, it was agreed that if Councillor Parfitt-Reid was successful in getting the meeting set up that Councillors Perry, Riordan and Spearink should attend. It was also agreed that the Clerk should support Councillor Parfitt-Reid with any data or further information to help facilitate this meeting, including the recent information on s106 funding that was allocated to improve the No 5 bus route.

6.2. Written reports on Committee, Group and Project Activities

6.2.1. Greener Staplehurst Group – Councillors NOTED the report of 24th January 2022, published at [Greener Staplehurst - Staplehurst Parish Council - Staplehurst Parish Council, Staplehurst, Tonbridge \(staplehurst-pc.uk\)](https://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/greener-staplehurst-staplehurst-parish-council-staplehurst-tonbridge)

6.2.2. Temporary Youth Working Group - Councillors NOTED the report of 8th February 2022, published at [Youth Club - Staplehurst Parish Council - Staplehurst Parish Council, Staplehurst, Tonbridge \(staplehurst-pc.uk\)](https://www.staplehurst-pc.uk/youth-club-staplehurst-parish-council-staplehurst-parish-council-staplehurst-tonbridge)

6.3. Oral Reports from Committee/Groups/Councillors

6.3.1. Chairman's report – The Chair announced that he was pleased that work to install the new path at Surrenden Playing Field had been scheduled for April. Councillor Riordan advised Councillors that the Neighbourhood Planning Review Group had requested that the Clerk contact Maidstone Area KALC to requested that Maidstone Borough Council identify a named Officer who would lead liaison, support and encouragement for Parish Councils in respect of Neighbourhood Planning and Design Codes. Councillors agreed that this

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seemed a sensible request and asked the Clerk to write accordingly. Councillor Riordan also thanked the Support Officer and the Clerk for their continued efforts over the weekend to keep residents up to date regarding support services available due to the power cuts from Storm Eunice. He commented how pleasing it was to see how the community had pulled together once again in time of need offering support to the emergency services for tree cutting to clear roads as well as supporting neighbours struggling with no heating and other facilities.

7. REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNCILS, AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS

- 7.1. Borough Councillors Report – Oral reports by Councillor Perry & Councillor Brice. Councillor Perry confirmed that he was now even more hopeful that the existing ward boundaries for Staplehurst would remain and with two Councillors. He confirmed that he had been working with MBC to finalise the budget for the next financial year. He also advised that the constitution was likely to be implemented from April and that one of the core issues of transparency through the provision of information to members was being addressed.
- 7.2. County Councillors Report - Councillor Parfitt-Reid had extended her apologies due to personal commitments.
- 7.3. Police Report – Councillors noted the January report, and continued to express their dissatisfaction at the lack of police presence in the village. Councillor Riordan confirmed he would take the issue forward at the next Cluster Meeting in April.
- 7.4. Maidstone Area Committee of KALC – Councillors noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 31st January 2021.

8. REPORTS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

- 8.1. Jubilee Field Management Committee – Councillors noted the meeting notes from the meetings of the 14th September 2021, 6th January 2022 and the AGM on the 15th January.
 - 8.1.1. It was RESOLVED to AGREE to allow the Jubilee Field Management Committee to install recycled stone to the overflow car park to allow safer and more effective car parking. It was noted that the funds were being provided by the Staplehurst Monarchs Football Club, courtesy of a generous donation from Magnetic Shields, and a smaller contribution from County Councillor Parfitt-Reid resulting in no cost to the JMFC or the Parish Council.

9. URGENT MATTERS

None.

Chairman.....

PUBLIC FORUM

Four residents attended, one resident spoke about speed restrictions and also the extensive littering of the A229 in the 40mph section between The Quarter and Knoxbridge.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm