

Stansted Parish Council
comprising the villages of
Stansted & Fairseat

**Items of interest from the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd
March 2014**

All parish councillors were present at the March meeting. Also present were 3 members of the public and Borough Cllr Matthew Balfour, who arrived after the start of the meeting, having been at a meeting of another parish council in his ward.

The main item on the agenda was a presentation given by Ian Bailey and Jill Peet, planning officers from the Borough Council. The Chairman welcomed them and outlined the Parish Council's planning concerns, such as apparent inconsistencies in policies about redundant farm buildings, upholding conservation areas and enforcement. Mr Bailey said they shared concerns at the changes in planning since 2010, although the National Planning Policy Guidance would fill in some items of planning which had been dropped and there was a presumption in favour of sustained development.

Mr Bailey then went on to outline the start of a new 15 year plan, which was in preparation and on which the public would be fully consulted in stages. The Government wants more housing and the Borough would have to make higher provision than they had previously been achieving annually. They had land identified for about 5 years and the biggest challenge was finding the next generation of sites. There would be an 8 week period from the end of March where they would be seeking for sites to come forward; they would have to check various things such as Green Belt, employment, deliverability. Infrastructure in the widest sense was important to parishes. Through this brief, we would like to thank Mr Bailey and Ms Peet for their very interesting and in-depth presentation, of which only a flavour is given here..

Still on planning, the application for the Four Seasons holiday park in Labout-in-Vain Road was due to be decided by Tonbridge & Malling's planning committee a couple of days after our meeting. Cllr Balfour said it was recommended by the planning officer for approval, but the Chairman rearranged his diary to attend and speak against it.

Sheila Goodworth reported on an initial Neighbourhood Watch meeting for Stansted, which was attended by about 20 people. Co-ordinators are Sheila for Plaxdale Green Road, Penny Goring for Tumblefield Road and John Stevens for Malthouse Road.

Sadly we have no update on the broadband provision.

The Parish Council has had to have emergency tree work carried out on the Brownes' field. It is expected coppicing will need to be done over next winter,

to prevent more expensive emergency work and to preserve the trees and keep them healthy.

The next meetings will be held on Monday 7th April in Fairseat Village Hall and on Monday 12th May in Stansted Village Hall, both starting at 8.00 pm. The May evening will start with the Annual Parish Meeting, which is *your* meeting. It will be followed immediately by the normal parish council business meeting. Please do come along - everyone is welcome.

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