



Staplehurst Emergency Help Team (SEHT)
Meeting on Tuesday 16th September 2025 7:30pm
Staplehurst Youth Centre, High Street, Staplehurst, TN120BJ

AGENDA – AGM

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

MA

Present: Melanie Alesi (Chair), Josh Melville (secretary), Chris Rhodes, Erika Lock, Laureen Rodwell, Patrick Blunt, Graham Seeley (MBC), Doreen Braganza, Apologies: Rachael Callister, Andrew Watson, Bob + Mary Howse, Adele Sharp, Teresa Young, Jose Castro.

2. Approval of last meeting's Minutes AGM

Approved as a true reflection of the last meeting. Proposed by EL, Seconded LR

3. Re-election/Election of Officers within SEHT:

- a) Chair - LR proposed, EL second - MA to remain as Chair
- b) Treasurer - MA Proposed, LR seconded - AS to remain as treasurer
- c) Secretary - MA Proposed, EL seconded - JM to remain as secretary
- d) Media - still vacant
- e) Operations & Training co-ordinator - MA Proposed, JM Seconded - CR to remain as Operations & Training co-ordinator

4. Chair's Report

MA

National initiative of 30 days of resilience for the month of September - consists of social media posts every day.

We recently joined Emergency partnership zoom meetings held bi-monthly.

We continue to join KRF on their zoom meetings - they have asked us to provide a presentation at their next meeting on what we do.

Feedback was given by the group on the Kent Prepared 'preparing for emergencies' pamphlet

In the background we have been working on our paperwork bringing it up to date.

We have had a few face to face meetings in the previous year.

We have been asked to trial a pack of playing cards, similar to 'go fish' aimed towards community resilience provided by KRF - game explained to group. The idea was discussed about a set that are more appropriate to south east England

Tractor parade - 21st December 2025. We have been asked to do first aid, both walking and stations as well as crowd management. They have offered to donate £500 to SEHT as a

thank you. A call was given for volunteers to help with traffic management and crowd control.

Graham Seeley - introduced to the group.

MBC risk and resilience officer broadly deals with business continuity and risk and resilience planning. Mitigating risks and ensuring risk planning is kept on top of. Also run exercises for scenario training. Also support of communities and groups such as ourselves. Looking at severe weather for this year and planning appropriately.

Kerry outlaw - introduced to the group.

interim chief executive for Kent ACRE. ACRE works in partnership with local government and rural communities working towards resilience.

Going for around 1yr - desperately trying to find more funding. Trying to get more parishes interested in building resilience plans. Very focused on flooding and led by many parish councils. Kicked off when broadband was lost for 2 weeks in Sevenoaks area, realised there was a need for community resilience plans. Works collaboratively with neighbouring villages/hamlets as they are all small areas. Trying to spread the idea of working in clusters to enable the smaller villages like Frittenden to take advantage of the work we have achieved and resources we have available.

It was suggested that we cluster with our neighbours such as Marden, Headcorn and Cranbrook.

Updated the group that we approached SPC requesting that they pay our insurance going forward, and will continue to cover our phone line costs. This was agreed by full council.

5. Insurance

MA

Insurance coming for renewal

Insurance currently states that we can only work in our parish. This is unless we are drafted by cat1 responders, as we would then be covered by their insurances.

Insurance is very tricky as there are no specific insurance policies that cover a group like us. It was suggested that we ask the borough/county council for advice.

One to look at is national farmers union.

6. Duke of Cornwall awards

CR

2 new sign ups from village fete.

Staplehurst Beavers booked into to complete the badges next week

Interest from staplehurst school asking for us to do an assembly - not heard anything since, will follow up

During artisan markets we will open the YC for workshops.

Advertising is an issue and needs looking at.

Maidstone police cadets interested in signing up and completing the award as well as partnering with us to be able to deliver the award.

7. Junior section

No movement yet - medium term project will be looked into more this year. To catch up with steven from fire station

8. Fundraising

Boot fair - fete - went well - any ideas for more fundraising efforts welcome.

JM

9. Training

Radio and comms training

Welfare centre introduction with mike mbc

Rachael run first aid courses

We are always on the lookout for more training programmes.

Want to update suitcase inventory - 2 at free church 2 at KLC - to liaise with graham.

10. Treasurer's Report / End Of year accounts

AS

£1347.85

Coop bank to be looked at.

11. Outstanding matters / Matters arising

None

12. Any Other Business

Patrick asked if we had any involvement in the recent fire at bleu steakhouse . we did not but Patrick attended in his own capacity to help manage traffic

13. Date of next meeting

25th November 2025 Youth Club 19:30pm.