

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 17th July 2023 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present	Gavin Murphy (Chair)	Gill McBarnet
	Donna Pearson	Kenton Stewart
	Melanie Wells	

In attendance: 6 members of the public, Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

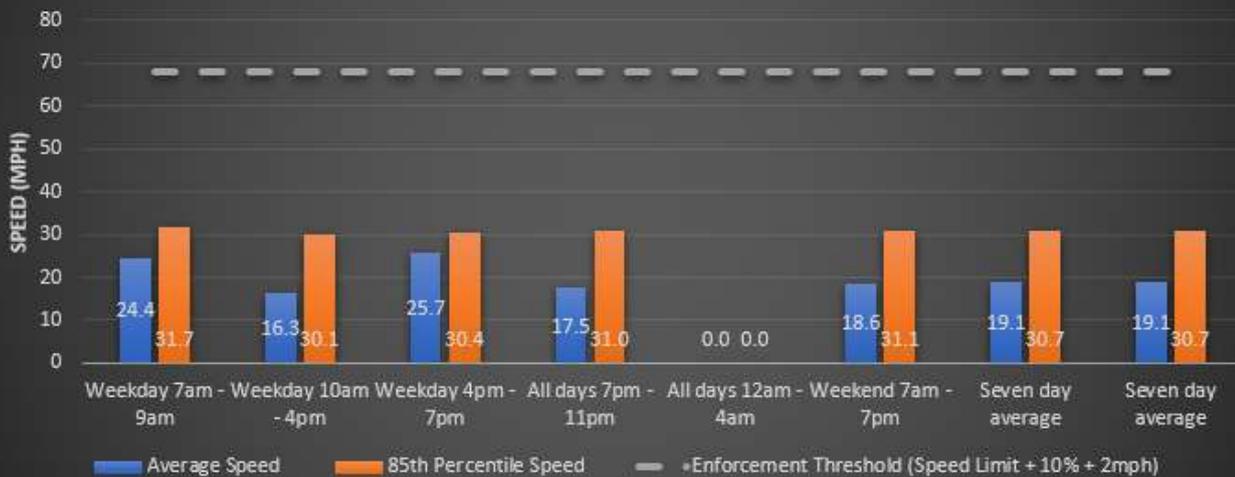
To be actioned by:

<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hawkins and Ross.</p>	
<p>To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.</p> <p>Cllr Wells noted a personal interest in the Inland Border facility as a family member works on the site and a personal interest in the Village Hall.</p>	
<p>To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 19th June 2023</p> <p>Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 19th June 2023 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.</p>	
<p>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.</p> <p>The cost of a defibrillator and signage had been circulated. All were in favour and the Clerk was given permission to spend. The Clerk will contact Cllr Bell in advance to ascertain whether she would have any grant funding available.</p>	
<p>To receive report from Borough Councillor</p> <p>A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website: http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He had received communication regarding the Tithe barn. Sketch designs are being worked up for an “enabling development” application; this will be submitted to Ashford Borough Council. - He noted the road closure of Church Road has been postponed to allow for the Beer Festival. - He had reported the Glebeland Path which is a KCC asset. - Stagecoach is withdrawing the No 10 Sunday Service. - The Stonestreet Solar development response deadline is thought to be this evening. The applicant has brought forward this application due to the proximity to the grid and has not necessarily taken into account the detail. Cllr Bartlett has sent his response to the Clerk who will circulate to all. - Community Policing restructure means that Mersham is covered by a PC. - There is a KCC consultation regarding Community Wardens. <p>Paul was thanked for his interesting report.</p>	
<p>Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item</p> <p>Four members of public attended because they wish to discuss the Broad Oak crossroads. There have been 2 accidents recently and something needs to be done to address this.</p> <p>Cllr Murphy explained that, as part of the Highways Improvement Plan, the Parish Council has addressed the situation with Kent Highways who have visited the site and agreed that they will renew all white lining</p>	

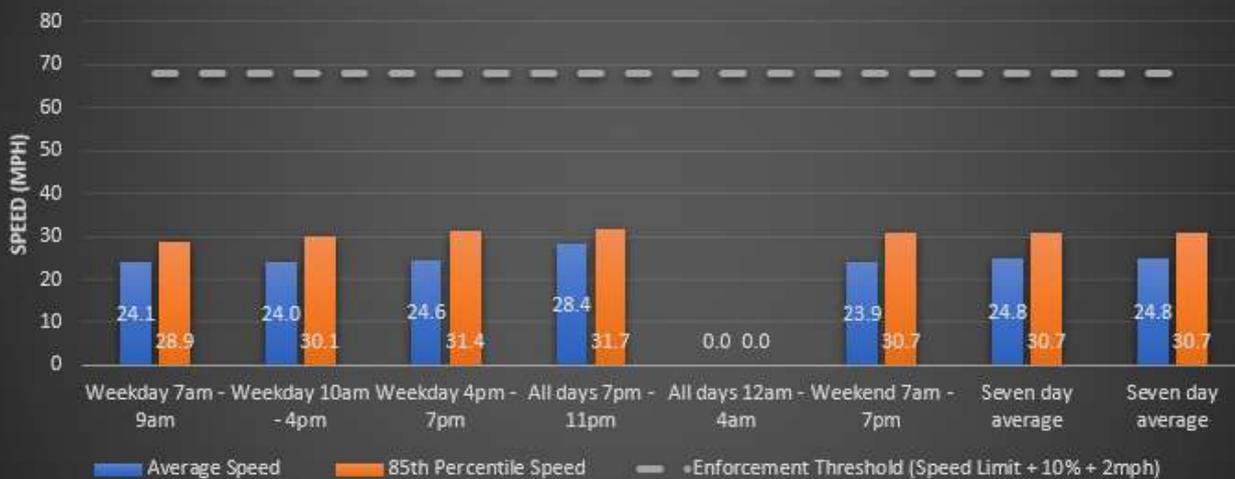
and paint STOP signs on the road etc.

A speed limit reduction was requested by members of the public which the Parish Council can request. The speed data for this particular site shows that the approach and average speed is well below the national speed limit.

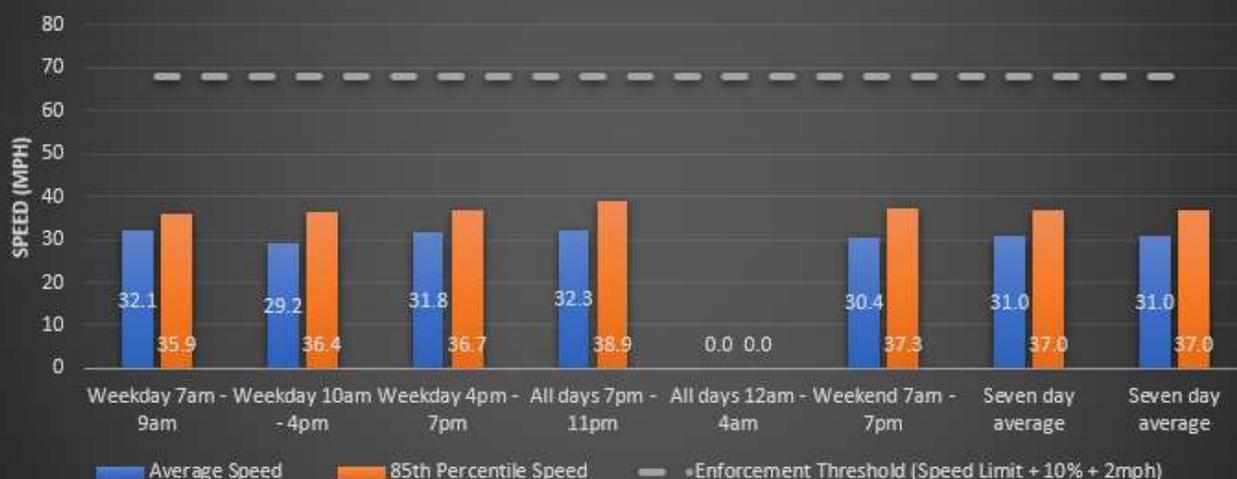
Bank Road (Western Arm) - Both Directions Combined (Mar 21 - Apr 22)



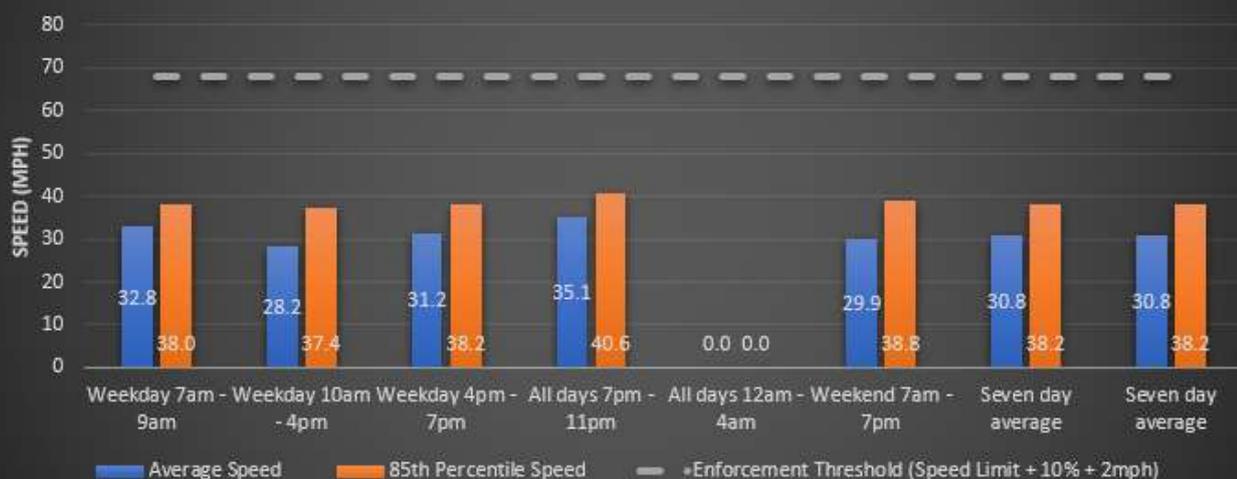
Bank Road (Eastern Arm) - Both Directions Combined (Mar 21 - Apr 22)



Flood Street (Northern Arm) - Both Directions Combined (Mar 21 - Apr 22)



Coopers Lane (Southern Arm) - Both Directions Combined (Mar 21 - Apr 22)



It was noted that there has been a lot of additional traffic due to the A2070 closures.

Options to raise awareness were proposed: horse in road signs, streetlight, pedestrian in road, cyclists in road. The PC will take these suggestions forward but is not able to authorise anything as it has no jurisdiction over the road management.

It was also noted that the ditch has collapsed and the vegetation has been deposited in the ditch, these will be reported to Kent Highways via their reporting tool:

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/ReportAFault.aspx>

Two members of the public attended to urge the Parish Council to respond to the Stonestreet Solar application.

Although it is accepted that solar power is required, it is important that these are in the correct location. The location and size are the 2 unacceptable parts of this application. The visual impact is extremely significant as this is to be placed on the Aldington ridge. The visual impact that has been provided is misrepresented. The consultation process appears to have been inadequate and the issue is exacerbated by the cumulative impact.

The MPS Damian Green and Damian Collins are to be copied in to the responses sent.

To receive any update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in High Field/IBF

<p>The new seeding has taken off. The trees are to be planted in the autumn.</p>	
<p>To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan) The Clerk had provided an updated HIP that was circulated to all. The PCs are awaiting a full update from KCC.</p>	
<p>To consider the 4 year objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look at renting on a long-term rent the car park area near the shop. The Parish Council is to revisit this and see what the available options are. - Look into using the cut and cover Cllr Murphy is to discuss this matter with Geoffrey Fletcher. - Update the JPF (paint swings, try for a lease agreement, chain off the entrance) Install bollards, agree to spend on this. Painting to be undertaken in the autumn. - Create an environmental policy This is to be created and signed off at by November 2023 - Take the HIP forward This is an ongoing document and will be updated as we go forward. 	
<p>To receive an update on the Village Hall</p> <p>Cllr Wells provided an update on the Village Hall. Cllr Murphy will write to the Manager of The Farriers to explain that the Village Hall car park should not be used by members of staff at The Farriers. There is concern as the Village Hall is being used on the same days as the Beer Festival.</p>	
<p>Litter behind Quarry View</p> <p>Cllr Murphy is to visit the developer on site and ask them to ensure the litter is disposed of properly on this site.</p>	
<p>Road Closure</p> <p>The timings of the road closure are entirely in the control of the contractor.</p>	
<p>Planning matters: to authorise a response to any application(s) and to note any recent planning decisions by Ashford Borough Council or any correspondence on planning matters.</p> <p>a) The following applications required comments: <u>PA/2023/0952</u> Centre Of Pond 90m From Stone Green Hall 112m From Flood Street, Flood Street, Mersham, TN25 7HE Proposed installation of new cricket nets and all weather wicket Support this application</p>	
<p>Financial matters:</p> <p>a) To approve the following financial documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the Parish Council’s financial position. The Parish Council has £29,187.61 in the bank. 2. To authorise any payments 	

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
OLT	HMRC	£ 75.00
OLT	I King (July salary)	£ 136.50
OLT	T Block (July Salary)	£ 407.43
OLT	I King (August salary)	£ 136.50
OLT	T Block (August salary)	£ 407.23
OLT	Grant for Helping Hands applied for on behalf of the Village Hall	£ 1080.00

A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.

Any Other Business

The streetlight removal consultation has resulted in some responses that the Clerk will use in her response to Ashford Borough Council. It is hoped that all of the streetlights will be retained at the expense of Ashford Borough Council.

Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

Monday 18th September 2023
Monday 20th November 2023
Monday 19th February 2024
Monday 15th April 2024

Monday 16th October 2023
Monday 15th January 2024
Monday 18th March 2024