

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in
the Church Room, St John the Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 25th September 2017**

Present	Peter Turley (Chair) Gavin Murphy Henrietta Sawdon Lee Whitehead	Geoffrey Fletcher Jan Oakley-Hills Mick Smithers
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In attendance: Paul Bartlett, Tracey Block (Clerk) and 6 members of the public

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hansen and Stewart.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda Cllrs Fletcher and Smithers declared a personal interest in the Sports Club.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 17 th July 2017 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p><i>Site at the Village shop re: parking</i> Cllr Smithers had contacted the registered owner of the land. She had decided to get a valuation and is happy for people to park on the land, Cllr Smithers will return to the lady and have a further discussion regarding the options. It was queried whether there was any benefit in registering this land as a community asset. This may be of use but will be looked in to further following further discussions with the registered owner.</p> <p><i>Bower Farm</i> Cllr Turley gave an update to the meeting regarding the concrete batch plant. This matter was raised with Environmental Health and 2 notices have been served re: noise and nuisance abatement. If the noise persists past the expiry of the notice (midnight on Thursday 28th September), evidence building will be required.</p> <p>This was also reported through the DVLA and an issue has been registered with them.</p> <p>The matter was also reported through Planning Enforcement, a report recommending an enforcement action has been issued to Lucy Holloway for approval and it is hoped that she will approve. ABC solicitor would then be engaged to proceed with an enforcement notice. The matter is a continued nuisance to residents. Cllr Bartlett was asked to discuss this with Lucy Holloway. All that are affected may need to begin keeping a detailed log to provide evidence should this be needed.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. A resident near the shop had written a letter to the Council stating that she did not want the land to be made in to a car park behind the shop and sighted safety and nuisance issues as her reasons.</p>	
<p>Report from Borough Councillor Finberry – the footpath outside the new school to Bridgefield is being built. It was suggested that the developers could be asked if they would install a noticeboard at the end of the path as a gesture of goodwill. The Clerk is to write to the developers.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett suggested that the Council look further in to the de-coupling of the 2 parishes by contacting Terry Mortimer. It is felt that Sevington (including Finbury) is already of a size that it can stand-alone. There are currently in excess of 400 occupied homes in Sevington. (including Finberry, Sevington North and Sevington South) The council fully supports this recognising the significant differences between of needs of Mersham and Sevington and the geographical split. An email will be sent to Terry Mortimer with regard to this.</p>	TB TB

<p>Cllr Bartlett is encouraging the link road to Finberry to be included in the gritting programme.</p> <p>Barrey Road traffic lights are priced at £275,000 if under-taken as part of the J10A works. The planning consent for J10A is expected in December with contractors on-site from February. The opportunity will be lost if the money is not found very soon. The A2070 has speed restrictions at times near the junction with Barrey Road.</p> <p>Bridge House – the noise on 19th August was an issue and the Borough Council will interview “Bob” and it is possible that he could be served with a statutory nuisance notice with could put constraints on future events.</p> <p>The Local Plan consultation is now complete and the outcome is awaited.</p> <p>The Petworth appeal has been decided and the results have been circulated. The deadlines vary from 1 month – 12 months.</p> <p>Footpath AE350 is to re-open on 16th October.</p>	
<p>Report from Community Warden The Community Warden was not at the meeting.</p>	
<p>Co-option of a replacement Councillor for Mersham Ward Henrietta Sawdon was co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Mersham Ward. Ken Botfield will be standing as a Councillor for Sevington North but is unable to attend the meetings this month or next.</p>	
<p>To receive a Sports Club Club-house update 2 members of the Sports Club were present. They initially wished to thank the Parish Council for their assistance with funding and support for the new entrance. This has meant that Phase 1 of their 3 phase upgrade plan is complete. Phase 2 is the building of a new clubhouse that is required. Plans have been submitted and this will be nearer the sheds with the old clubhouse being demolished to aid additional parking. Phase 3 is trying to obtain adjacent land from the Church Commissioners for additional pitches and allowing some of the current pitches to rest.</p> <p>Phase 2 is based upon funding resources. The Club can run day to day through the funds it raises but additional funding will be needed for the new club-house. KCC Funding for All have been to have a look at the site and think this is a worthy cause. The Sports Club have set up a separate sub-committee to better drive the significant challenge of the required. An initial estimate is £500,000 for this new build.</p> <p>A planning application can be expected within the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>One question asked: could the resident footprint increases for additional homes in Mersham be asked to give a set amount to the Sports Club (i.e. potential new build adjacent to Rectory Close)? This is a possibility for S.106 funds.</p> <p>Cllr Fletcher declared personal interest and commented, “I have been concerned to hear of usage to increase to incorporate weddings etc. at the Sports Club” The Sports Club members explained that the condition of the alcohol license only allows the club to be opened 15 times a year to non-members. The constitution states that users must be sports club members, non-member usage must be approved by the panel. Sports will always take priority over any additional functions. It is not the Sports Club intentions to hold weddings etc. in the Sport Club Club-house.</p> <p>Cllr Turley expressed the opinion that the sports club deserves good facilities and Cllr Fletcher supports the</p>	

<p>concept but had wondered if this would mean a change of usage. The Parish Council was unanimous in its decision to support the application once received.</p>	
<p>Installation of a bench outside the Royal Oak Cllr Turley reported that Cllr Stewart is very keen to complete installation of the bench but workload has prevented this. He hopes to install it this month. As a contingency, the council agreed that it would be willing to fund an alternative.</p>	KS
<p>Planning Matters: A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:</p> <p>17/01192/AS Land between The Glenmore Centre and Tyreweb, Crowbridge Road, Willesborough, Kent Outline planning application with all matters reserved for development of up to 1400 sq. metres of B1/B2/B8 commercial floor space in small units of accommodation</p> <p>The Parish Council raises no objection</p> <p>11/00473/CONT/AS Land at Cheeseman's Green, Cheeseman's Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent Discharge condition 45 (Village Centre phase)</p> <p>The Parish Council raises no objection</p> <p>15/01586/CONA/AS Land at Cheeseman's Green, Cheeseman's Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent Discharge of Conditions: 11, 12 & 14 (Village Centre phase)</p> <p>The Parish Council raises no objection</p> <p>17/01174/AS The Cottage, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PE Proposed detached garage (revision to location of garage as approved under permission 16/00019/AS)</p> <p>The Parish Council respectfully requests that the officer gives careful consideration to the points raised by the neighbours and the Parish Council specifically requests that the issues are all dealt with particular emphasis on the removal of the pre-existing cottage and the concerns related to additional accommodation over the garage.</p> <p>17/01327/AS Bickleigh Cottage, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NZ Single storey extension at rear</p> <p>The Parish Council raises no objection</p> <p>07/01579/CONA/AS Site M South Section Orbital Park, Monument Way, Sevington Part discharge of condition 19</p> <p>The Parish Council raises no objection</p> <p>17/01343/AS Little Gill Farm, Gill Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 7HZ Conversion of external building to annexe</p> <p>The Parish Council raises no objection</p>	

[17/01344/AS](#)

Little Gill Farm, Gill Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 7HZ

Conversion of external building to annexe

The Parish Council raises no objection

To discuss issues at Sevington North re: beacon on the green

The Borough Council have discovered that the play area in Sevington North is part of the green corridor and, therefore, Natural England must be consulted as to whether a beacon can be put on this piece of land.

Financial Matters

To approve the following financial documents:

To note/authorise the following:

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £29,624.73

To authorise any payments including the Clerk's Salary and the Litter picker's Salary

The following payments were authorised:

Cheque	Payee's Name	Reason for Payment	Amount	Notes
501806	Sevington Sizzle	Donation toward Sevington Sizzle fund-raiser	£ 250.00	
501807	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – September (Mersham)	£ 93.60	
501808	T Saint	Litter Pickers Salary – September (Sevington)	£ 116.13	
501809	T Block	Clerks Salary (September)	£ 395.87	
501810	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	£ 240.00	
501811	Playsafety Ltd	RoSPA Inspection	£ 113.40	
501812	HMRC	Tax on Salaries	£ 32.60	
501813	T Block	Payment for Title plans x 2	£ 6.00	

A budget over expenditure and financial statement had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

The document has been sent to the bank without being signed by the other signatories, the Clerk is to contact the bank to see what needs to be done next.

TB

To discuss and agree action re: RoSPA report at JPF

Cllr Turley is due to meet with the Village Caretaker to see if he can undertake the minor remedial actions required following the RoSPA Report being received.

These repairs include:

Cut back the vegetation near the seat

Tighten the loose fittings on the carousel

Secure the goal posts (can buy hooked pegs for such

things) <https://www.networldsports.co.uk/football-anchor-set-of-four.html>

Replace goal nets

Replace the cap on the multiplay

Repair hammock supports

Shorten hammock chains

Repair uneven surface at hammock supports

Secure the caterpillar fixings

Secure base of the cricket rocker

Replace bolts and increase seat clearance on see-saw

Secure the snake and replace the hand grips

Tighten the nuts on the swing

Paint the 2 bay, 4 seat swing frame

Consider replacing the 2 seat toddler swing

Stain the wooden play equipment

Repair all surface and sew grass seed

Remove the old sign with contact details for Jenny Mills

Tom Gooderham of Strutt and Parker has also made contact regarding the lease of the JPF. Cllrs Turley, Murphy and Fletcher are to meet with Mr Gooderham on 3 rd October at 11am.	PT/GM/GF
To discuss and agree a response to the request from Mr P Barden regarding the loan of the speed sign It was agreed after some discussion that the Brabourne Community Led Plan could borrow the speed sign from Mersham, Cllr Turley would transport and erect this for them.	PT
Any Other Business Cllr Murphy explained that one of the battery packs for the speed sign is no longer working. It was agreed that the Clerk would find out costs for a new one. Cllr Sawdon reported the theft of two cast iron statues. A new litter picker was approved for Tom Saint. The Clerk reported that the bin review report had not yet been received by Ashford Borough Council but it is expecting imminently.	TB TB
The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 16 th October 2017, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 6 th October, please.	All
There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.15 PM.	