Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Room, St John the Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 20th March 2017

Present Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair)

Mick Smithers Peter Turley

Jan Oakley-Hills **Kenton Stewart**

In attendance: Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned	
The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hansen, Murphy, Sawdon and Whitehead	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda	
There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 20 th February 2017 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes Bench	
The bench is to be collected from Cllr Murphy and installed.	KS
The applications for funding for the play ground safety ground cover from Paul Bartlett's fund and Andrew Wickham's Community Grant Scheme have both proved very successful with grants being secured to cover all of the works.	
Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. There were no members of the public present.	
Report from Borough Councillor	
There were no Borough Councillors present as Cllr Bartlett was at an alternative meeting.	
Report from Community Warden The Community Warden was not at the meeting.	
To agree proposed diversions of parts of public footpaths AW296/AE390A, AE345 and AE354 Cllr Oakley-Hills expressed some concern about the need for a path 2m wide round Captain's Wood, it would seem out of context being a tarmaced surface round an ancient woodland. The purpose of the paths was questioned. The diversions themselves are not objected to but as the paths lead to fields and lanes with no pavement the purpose of a tarmaced path was questioned.	
To agree content and circulation of a newsletter to Mersham/Sevington South residents The newsletter does not appear to have been circulated to all residents yet so it was agreed that this would be undertaken and a decision over an update circulated later in the spring. Cllr Turley has the distribution list and the Clerk will circulate the newsletter again.	
Planning Matters: A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:	
Reference: 17/00251/AS Address: 2, Bell Field, The Forstal, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6NU Proposal: Conversions &; alterations to existing double garage to form annexe The Parish Council raises no objection to this application	
Reference: 17/00251/AS Address: 2, Bell Field, The Forstal, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6NU Proposal: Conversions &; alterations to existing double garage to form annexe	

Reference: 17/00289/AS

Address: 1 Cherry Glebe, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NL

Proposal: Single storey side &; rear extension

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Reference: <u>17/00269/AS</u>

Address: Orchard Cottage, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PF

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension.

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Reference: 13/01254/AS

Address: Unit 1A, Ashford Business Park, Barrey Road, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 OSG

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 4, 5 and 14

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Financial Matters

To approve the following financial documents:

i. To note/authorise the following:

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £30231.97. 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
501769	Mersham PCC	Hall usage	£ 100.00	
501770	Realise Futures	Bench for green near the Royal Oak	£ 497.94	
501771	SSP Specialised Sports Products Ltd	Resurfacing of JPF playing equipment	£6960.00	
501772	T Saint	Litter Pickers Salary – March (Sevington)	£ 93.80	
501773	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – March (Mersham)	£ 93.60	
501774	HMRC	Tax paid on Salaries	£ 29.20	
501775	T Block	Clerks Salary – March	£ 388.09	
501776	Mersham PCC	Donation toward the new gate	£ 100.00	

A budget over expenditure and financial statement had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Parish Council had ring-fenced £5800.00 for the play equipment and has kept high reserves as the Parish Council has expected expenditure for the Village Caretaker and the replacement for The Village magazine in 2017/18.

A draft Safeguarding Policy was circulated and approved by the Parish Council. This was signed and adopted.

Any Other Business

Mr Pollock expressed his thanks to the Parish Council for their actions in maintaining the JPF. There are 3 play items to paint and then the job will be complete.

A vacancy has arisen for writing the column in the Kentish Express for Mersham. It is hoped that someone will come forward to take this role on for the village. Thanks were expressed to Pat who has done this for Mersham for the last 12 years.

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 10th April 2017, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 31st March, please.

ΑII

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.05 PM.