

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 11th April 2022 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair)	Peter Hawkin
	Kenton Stewart	Peter Turley
	Melanie Wells	

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Murphy 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. There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2022 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 21st March 2022 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.</p>	
<p>Update regarding the East Stour Valley – Campaign to Save Aldington The Campaign to Save Aldington will be updated via email so all are encouraged to sign up.</p> <p>There has been a meeting with the Stone Street Group who have expanded the site by a further 50 acres.</p> <p>It is suggested that the Councillors are careful when providing any written feedback to ensure that feedback is not used out of context.</p> <p>The Village Alliance had sent an email to the Chairman who will forward to the Clerk for circulation. There is to be a walk-in presentation of the plans at the Sports Club.</p>	
<p>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda. Cllr Turley gave an update following the Caretaker Review. There had been more income than was expected from a VAT reclaim and Smeeth School. Some negotiation is required regarding the Caretaker's hours at Smeeth School. At the end of the financial year the scheme is looking to carry over £10,000, next years contributions will be £8520 from Mersham Parish Council. All Parish Councils were positive and Paul's feedback was also positive. The building of a resilience plan is in progress. The chipper Paul has at present is inadequate so it was agreed that the scheme would trial using T Gardener Ltd to undertake some chipping at a cost of up to £400 for the year.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. There were no public in attendance.</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>The road closure on 13th April has been cancelled due to the M20 closure. The lorry park operator at Waterbrook has ordered a variable message sign to allow for lorries to be advised if the lorry park is full.</p>	
<p>To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield The archaeological excavation on site is underway. There have been a huge amount of trees planted on site. There has been some willow planting at the bunding. The fencing of in Kingsford Street requires some planting. Once this is complete, Ashford Borough Council is to request a restriction of an SSSI or similar. A meeting will be set up with Daniel Fryd.</p>	
<p>To discuss the current situation at the inland Border facility The excess space on the IBF is being used as part of Brock Zero for lorry parking. The lorry issue is caused by lorry operators sending lorries without a crossing booked. Cllr Bartlett felt that the Kent</p>	

Pass needs reinstating.													
<p>To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan) The Highways Improvement Plan is in action. KCC to undertake installing “people in road” warning signage near the Sports Club.</p>													
<p>To receive an update regarding the Village Hall Cllr Wells provided an update on the Village Hall. A copy is kept on file.</p>													
<p>To discuss the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations The events committee had met and Cllr Wells had attended this. There will be a celebration on 2/6 from 3pm at Mersham Sports Club and the beacon will be lit at 9.45pm. There has been a suggestion of running Bat and Trap/Archery on site. The Sports Club will provide food and drink or people can bring their own. The Insurance and Risk Assessment is being sorted. There is to be a leaflet drop to all houses, posters will be put up and banners will be put up. The school ran a competition and the winner’s design will be used. The next organising meeting is on 12/5.</p> <p>Cllr Stewart will set up the beacon for lighting and he will require someone to hold the ladder. Cllr Turley and the Caretaker will repair the fencing around the beacon.</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>There were no Planning Applications to discuss.</p>													
<p>Financial matters:</p> <p>a) To note the Parish Council’s financial position. The financial position was noted as at 31st March 2022 There was a discussion regarding new playing equipment</p> <p>b) To approve the Statement of Internal Control 2021-22 The Statement of Internal Control was approved and signed.</p> <p>c) To review the Financial Regulations There was a review of the Financial Regulations.</p> <p>d) To authorise any payments</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque No:</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>502192</td> <td>I King (April salary)</td> <td>£ 130.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502193</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£ 30.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502194</td> <td>T Block (April salary)</td> <td>£ 390.84</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.</p>	Cheque No:	Payee	Amount	502192	I King (April salary)	£ 130.00	502193	HMRC	£ 30.80	502194	T Block (April salary)	£ 390.84	
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<p>Any Other Business (for information purposes only):</p> <p>Cllr Hawkin asked the Clerk to contact Kent PROW regarding the installation of a gate at Bower Farm. Kent PROW have offered to remove the stile and have a gap but the land houses livestock at times.</p>													
<p>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.</p> <p>Monday 16th May 2022 at 7pm – APM, Clerk to invite others to talk.</p>	All												
The meeting closed at 8.35pm													