

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 18th September 2023 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present	Gavin Murphy (Chair) Peter Hawkins Stewart Ross Melanie Wells	Gill McBarnet Donna Pearson Kenton Stewart
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In attendance: Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

To receive and approve apologies for absence	
There were no apologies for absence.	
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.	
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.	
To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 17th July 2023	
Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 17 th July 2023 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.	
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.	
To receive report from Borough Councillor	
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/	
Cllr Bartlett reported that:	
-The litter on the M20 bridge appears to have been cleared.	
- The S106 agreement for the IBF has been delayed again because the DfT have granted a lease to South East Power Networks. Ashford Borough Council may have to add South East Power Networks to the agreement before it can be signed off.	
- HMRC have reached out to Ashford Borough Council for use of the IBF site post 2025, HMRC will take forward a Planning Application for their use. HMRC have no SDO powers so the Planning Application will be submitted to Ashford Borough Council, a Planning Application is expected in 2024.	
- Only 3 replies have been received so far to the Oaklands parking survey that ends on 30/9.	
- Planting on the Buffer Zone will start in the autumn. The dead trees have been highlighted and will be replaced.	
- There is a meeting on Thursday evening with the Stonestreet Solar developers. Cllr Harman will meet with Cllr Bartlett on Wednesday.	
Cllr Murphy asked who owns the land at Oaklands. Cllr Bartlett explained that half owned by KCC and half by ABC. There is concern about pot holes and trip hazards on the ABC owned land. PB explained that there are 3 solutions, a permit system, double yellow lines or dog bones. Any parking on the green would destroy the aesthetic of the area. The Oaklands survey is to be an agenda item at the October meeting.	
Cllr Murphy asked what the HMRC will use the IBF site for. Cllr Bartlett explained that Parliament is to	

digitise all cross border checks as of January 2026, therefore lorry checks are minimised. The site is likely to be used for food stuff checks and the "random" lorry checks.	
Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item There were no public in attendance.	
To receive any update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in High Field/IBF There was no further update.	
To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan) KCC have been provided with an update. The road between the A20 and The Street has damaged chevrons and looks tatty. HGV signs have never been provided in Mersham or on the M20. Resolved: The Clerk will contact PB and KHS. There was a discussion about fly-posting.	
To discuss the JPF and consider next actions A letter had been received from the new agents for the land owner. Resolved: The Clerk will send details of 3 new pieces of equipment required for the JPF.	
To discuss the defibrillator and agree next actions The defibrillator has been fitted by Ashford Borough Council, thanks to them. An article is to be placed in the Villager and signage will be purchased and fitted.	
Parish Council Objectives for this administration - Look at renting on a long-term rent the car park area near the shop. There have been a number of discussions. The Parish Councillors will visit the registered landowner to discuss the options for the land. - Look into using the cut and cover The Clerk gave Cllr Murphy a file with the detail she holds. To be discussed again in October. - Update the JPF (paint swings, try for a lease agreement, chain off the entrance) Install bollards, TB to agree. - Create an environmental policy This has been created and sent off to Cllr Murphy for comment. This will be circulated and signed off at meeting in November 2023 - Take the HIP forward This is an ongoing document and will be updated as we go forward.	MW and PH GM TB GM
To receive an update on the Village Hall Cllr Wells provided an update on the Village Hall.	
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. a) The following applications required comments: All applications received a no comment response: PA/2023/1443, PA/2023/1468 and PA/2023/1556.	

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Financial matters:

a) To approve the following financial documents:

1. To note the Parish Council's financial position.

The Parish Council has £32017.93 in the bank.

2. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
OLT	HMRC	£ 85.20
OLT	I King (September salary)	£ 136.50
OLT	T Block (September Salary)	£ 359.63
OLT	Village Caretaker Account	£ 3520.00
OLT	Iain S Radford (Electrical work at Village Hall)	£ 11937.60

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

Any Other Business

Cllr Pearson reported on the KALC Meeting she had attended. Cllr Ross to attend on 1st November.

Cllr Stewart is to be the Sports Club Trustee.

The litter is bad next to Quarry View again. Contractors to be contacted to request they clean the mess in the area

The dog waste on the High Field is really bad. Cllr Bartlett will be asked if additional Dog Waste bins could be installed at the top and bottom of the bridle way.

The website is out of date. Cllrs to inspect the website and send update requestes to the Clerk This is to be an agenda item in October.

The Village Hall Committee discussed the grass cutting at the Hall.

GM

GM

ALL

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

Monday 16th October 2023

Monday 15th January 2024

Monday 18th March 2024

Monday 20th November 2023

Monday 19th February 2024

Monday 15th April 2024