

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church**

<b>Present</b>	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair)	Peter Hawkin
	Gavin Murphy	Stewart Ross
	Kenton Stewart	

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett, 2 members of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

*To be actioned by:*

<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence.</b>          Apologies had been received from Cllrs Turley and Wells.</p>	
<p><b>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.</b>          There were no declarations of interest to receive.</p>	
<p><b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>          Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.</p>	
<p><b>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.</b>          There were no matters arising from the agenda.</p> <p>The 2 members of the public attended the meeting because they wished to know what the Parish Council knew of the road closure on 24/10 for 4 days.</p> <p>This is a UKPN closure, Cllr Stewart advised the members of the public to communicate directly with UKPN as the PC will have little effect. KS will support the residents as best he can.</p>	
<p><b>To receive report from Borough Councillor</b></p> <p><b>A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website:</b>  <a href="http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/">http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/</a></p> <p>Cllr Bartlett had met with Insp. Vanessa Foster, there is little to report in this area.</p> <p>Evolution Power had presented their proposals to Ashford Borough Council, this covers an area of 400 acres, this is being treated differently to the 267 acre plan for the EDF solar farm. EDF is a planning application that is being dealt with by Ashford Borough Council (MPC to respond).</p> <p>The Evolution Power application is a NSIP (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project), to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. The PC need to look at these jointly.</p> <p>EDF application should be commented on as it affects the NSIP by Evolution Power. The PC is to point out the linkage between the 2, the visual impact will be felt by the residents of Mersham.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett also reported that National Power pay for electricity and that price is linked to the gas price. These are to be de-linked.</p>	TB
<p><b>To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield</b>          There was nothing to update on this.</p>	
<p><b>To discuss the current situation at the Inland Border Facility</b>          It is anticipated that the IBF will not be used after December 2025 and an alternative use will be found. It was suggested that the PC ask Daniel Fryd of DfT about their intention and then consult the parish before the next Local Plan call to sites.</p>	



<p><b>To receive an update regarding the Village Hall</b>  Cllr Wells had circulated her report. The work on the new build is moving apace.  There was a discussion about the Village Hall car park and village parking.</p>																																					
<p><b>To receive an update on the Caretaker Scheme</b>  There was a proposal circulated. This provides a change in ethos and goes against how it was originally set up. Following a discussion, the rationale was accepted and a vote of thanks was given to Cllr Turley and the Clerk for their work in this.</p>																																					
<p><b>Succession Planning</b>  There was nothing to report at this time.</p>																																					
<p><b>Financial matters:</b></p> <p><b>a) To note the Parish Council’s financial position.</b>  The financial position was noted as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022</p> <p><b>b) To authorise any payments</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="193 712 1270 1160"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque No:</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>502195</td> <td>I King (October salary)</td> <td>£ 130.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502196</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£ 33.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502197</td> <td>The Villager</td> <td>£ 480.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502198</td> <td>Clerk (October salary)</td> <td>£ 403.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502199</td> <td>PKF Littlejohn LLP</td> <td>£ 240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502200</td> <td>T Block expenses</td> <td>£ 55.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502231</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£ 33.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502232</td> <td>Mr I King (September salary)</td> <td>£ 130.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502233</td> <td>T Block ( September salary)</td> <td>£ 388.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502234</td> <td>Caretaker Account</td> <td>£ 3520.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502235</td> <td>JRB Enterprise Ltd</td> <td>£ 111.06</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.</p> <p><b>c) To receive Section 3 of the AGAR (External Auditor Report and Certificate) and note dates set by the Responsible Financial Officer for the rights of inspection, in line with statutory requirements.</b>  The External Auditor Report was noted.</p> <p><b>d) To agree to remain opted in to the SAAA Central Audit Appointment Arrangements</b>  The Parish Council agreed to remain opted in to the SAAA Central Audit Appointment Arrangements.</p>	Cheque No:	Payee	Amount	502195	I King (October salary)	£ 130.00	502196	HMRC	£ 33.40	502197	The Villager	£ 480.00	502198	Clerk (October salary)	£ 403.24	502199	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£ 240.00	502200	T Block expenses	£ 55.82	502231	HMRC	£ 33.60	502232	Mr I King (September salary)	£ 130.00	502233	T Block ( September salary)	£ 388.04	502234	Caretaker Account	£ 3520.00	502235	JRB Enterprise Ltd	£ 111.06	
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<p><b>Any Other Business (for information purposes only):</b>  The litterpicker has been very visible recently.  The Royal Oak is due to be opened in February.</p>																																					
<p><b>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.</b>  <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022</b>  <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b>  <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>  <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b></p> <p>All</p>																																				
<p><b>The meeting closed at 9.30pm</b></p>																																					