

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church**

**Present**                      Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair)                      Peter Hawkin  
    Gavin Murphy                                      Peter Turley

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

*To be actioned by:*

<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence.</b> Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ross, Stewart and Wells.	
<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.	
<b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b> Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
<b>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.</b> The Clerk had met with Kent Highways regarding the area outside Hollyhock Cottage – they are to patch the area, the owner of the property was advised to purchase a larger sign and the Clerk wrote to Royal Mail regarding the parking.	
<b>To receive report from Borough Councillor</b>  <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>  The speed restriction by Quarry View is currently under consultation.  The solar lights on the path near the A20 will be replaced by KCC. The streetlights removal has not been discussed at Ashford Borough Council (ABC) since 2006. If ABC continues to fund the streetlights in the unparished areas it would be correct to ask parishes to pay out of the precept. This equates to double taxation.  There is a slight issue with the fuel rebate – those entitled (people on a pension in a home banded A-D under Council Tax bands) to the £150 will be paid by the end of July. The further £100 MUST be claimed, this must be applied for by the end of September.	
<b>To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield</b> The fence is going up; it is thought that it is to protect the buffer zone. DEFRA are paying for this and maintaining it. The DfT need to ensure there is local control in the future. The PC needs to encourage ABC to ensure the buffer zone is highlighted in the next Local Plan and encourage Natural England to designate the area.  The Clerk is to contact Daniel Fryd to request specification and further detail of the fence.	
<b>To discuss the current situation at the inland Border facility</b> The IBF is now being used for animal health checks; the site will host 1600 Ukrainian pets and 1 bison. Cllr Hawkin asked who owns the IBF, the owner is DfT.	
<b>To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan)</b> The legal process of the Highways Improvements is now under way.	
<b>To receive an update regarding the Village Hall</b> Cllr Wells had circulated her report. The developer is working really well alongside the Village Hall Committee. Once the project is completed, the PC needs to work out who owns the Village Hall and the land it stands on. Cllr Wells is doing a fantastic job with the Village Hall.	
<b>To receive an update on the Caretaker Scheme</b> There has been some angst from the Caretaker. He wanted more hours to complete additional work due to the growing period but this took some time and he felt he had been refused. The Caretaker now has 72 hours to work as required which will be taken back over the winter by working a 4 day week for 12 weeks. Paul MUST plan his holidays.	

**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.**

The following applications required comments:

22/00945/AS

Cherry Rose, Bower Road, Mersham

Certificate of Lawful Development - proposed construction of a two storey extension to the rear of the existing dwelling house and a detached garage.

**No objections raised**

22/00998 and 22/00999/AS

6 Long Row, Flood Street, Mersham

Proposed single storey rear extension

**No objections raised**

22/00840/AS

Conscience Farm, Blind Lane, Mersham

Installation of a digestate tank. Dimensions 23.16m - diameter. 2.7m above ground level

**No objections raised**

**Succession Planning**

It was highlighted that additional interested parties are invited to come along to the September meeting.

There was a discussion surrounding the proposed budget for 2023/24. The Parish is reducing by 332 houses because of the Community Governance Review and the Finberry homes that were in Mersham being transferred to Sevington. The Clerk was asked to look up the Band D contributions for Mersham since 2010.

There was a discussion regarding the budget sums and the Clerk was asked to contact The Villager requesting accounts and the circulation numbers so that the parish Council is undertaking due diligence

**Financial matters:**

**a) To note the Parish Council's financial position.**

The financial position was noted as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**b) To authorise any payments**

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
502224	I King (July salary)	£ 130.00
502226	HMRC	£ 33.60
502225	Clerk (July salary)	£ 373.04
50227	Play Safety Ltd – RoSPA Inspection)	£ 109.20
502221	I King (August salary)	£ 130.00
502222	Clerk (August salary)	£ 373.24
502223	HMRC	£ 33.40

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

**Any Other Business (for information purposes only):**

The Sports Club has now purchased the land at a cost of £120,000. The charitable trust has been updated and Cllr Turley is now listed as a trustee.

The Clerk was asked to request a footpath sign for the post at the beginning of AE366 along the Millennium Green.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Murphy needs to contact Kent Highways regarding any overgrown hedging.

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

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

All

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm**