

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 16th January 2023 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

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

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett, 2 members of the public 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 meeting held on 21st November 2022 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 21 st November 2022 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda. Cllr Turley reported that the Sports Club had been successful in their grant application and they thanked the Parish Council for their support. It was noted that the new pavilion plans are on hold.	
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 he had met with Jo Luxton from the Church Commissioners and she was very amenable regarding the proposed bridlepath between Aldington and Mersham. Evolution Power/Stonestreet Solar would have to pay for this. The ultimate decision as to whether Evolution Power get permission is with the Secretary of State but, if it is to be approved it is likely that additional community funds will be brought forward by the developer. Conscience Farm – Ashford Borough Council will be undertaking a call for sites soon after the elections. It is likely that the Church Commissioners will bring forward Conscience Farm again. It was originally brought forward as a site for 400 homes and will have an enormous effect on the village of Mersham, access is a real issue. Cllr Fletcher commented that the building on flood plains has a knock on effect on houses up stream as has been seen recently when Flood Street has flooded. Cllr Turley asked Cllr Bartlett if there had been any update on the Tithe Barn. Cllr Bartlett asked the Borough Council to bring action against the owner for failing to maintain a grade II listed property. It was agreed that if there is no update at the Mersham meeting, the Parish Council will write to the local press.	
To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield and the current situation at the Inland Border Facility There is currently a debate as to who will be responsible for the maintenance of Highfield. A discussion ensued regarding the future of the IBF. Cllr Bartlett will use the public enquiry about the footpath across the IBF to ask pertinent questions. There are no planting plans at present.	
Planning Inspectorate – attendance at the hearing. The Public Inquiry will take place on 24 th January at 10am in Aldington Village Hall. Cllrs are to send points	All

<p>to the Clerk to forward to Cllr Bartlett in good time.</p>	
<p>To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan) The Parish Council has contacted Kent Highways about the lining at the top of Church Road, this is to be repaired. The additional white lining along Bower Road and Church Road is programmed for February 2023.</p> <p>Church Road issues - The Parish Council had been communicating with a resident, Kent Highways and the local County Council about the state of Church Road. It is understood that the repairs required exceed, according to Kent Highways, what would be considered routine maintenance and so have been passed to the RAFAT (Roads and Footways Asset Team) to be programmed. This had been programmed for the 2022-23 financial year but the school are to undergo some works so highways have postponed the works and so have been provisionally booked this in for the school holidays. The Parish Council did not consider the road safe to continue until such repairs can be programmed so are to invite the Highways Officer to a site meeting to discuss the matter.</p> <p>Whilst at the site meeting, the Parish Councillors will ask the Highways Officer to view the drainage issues on Kingsford Street.</p>	<p>TB</p>
<p>Update on Broadband The Clerk confirmed that the build is planned to be complete in Spring 2023 for the Aldington exchange properties near the new builds.</p> <p>The Sevington exchange is likely to be upgraded in 2025.</p> <p>It was reported that the mobile mast has been decommissioned but the new one has not been installed. The Clerk was asked to find out what is happening with the new mast.</p>	<p>TB</p>
<p>School Parking issues The Chairman had been very frustrated when trying to navigate his way through the parking outside of the school. The enforcement team in Ashford Borough Council have 6 officers and 30 enforceable schools which mean officers are very limited. The public are advised to contact 101 or report online if a vehicle is causing an obstruction. https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/report-a-road-traffic-incident/</p>	
<p>Update on the JPF The Parish Council had not received any further contact from Strutt and Parker. Cllr Turley is to discuss the RoSPA report with the Caretaker.</p>	
<p>To receive an update on the Village Hall Cllr Wells provided an update on the Village Hall. The new Titles need to be registered with Land Registry. Parking is causing an issue so in the first instance a sign will be put up stating that the car park is private land.</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>a) The following applications required comments: PA/2022/2646 The Barn, Flood Street, Mersham, TN25 7HE Erection of stables with tack room/haystore & wash down area; proposed sand school with perimeter fence. No objections raised</p> <p>PA/2022/2651 Proposed two-storey extension No objections raised</p>	

OTH/2022/3152

Land South of Captain's Wood, Cheeseman's Green Lane, Ashford

Non-material amendment to planning permission 16/00125/AS (Land South of Captain's Wood phase Construction of 326 new dwellings with associated access, parking, landscaped areas including a neighbourhood play area, internal roads for the development, details of distributor roads E and F, Waterbrook Link Road, a district play area north of Captain's Wood and surface water drainage measures) to amend Plots B6-B8 house types and unit layout and a reduction of 4no residential units.

No comments

PA/2022/2920

Centre Of Pond 90m From Stone Green Hall 112m From Flood Street, Flood Street, Mersham, TN25 7HE
Change of use of land to recreational and the creation of two additional football pitches with associated access drive and hardstanding. Revised scheme to approved

The Parish Council support this application.

PA/2022/2961

Ransley House, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6PF

Proposed replacement of existing UPVC clad mono pitch lean to with a new brick built version with slate roof to include extension to catslide roof; extension to the existing single storey pitched extension on side elevation (Resubmission of previous Planning and Listed Consent Application 19/01400/AS, 19/01401/AS & 19/00048/AS)

No objections raised

PA/2022/3003

Ransley House, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6PF

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No objections raised

Succession Planning

The current Councillors are to encourage more people to come forward.

S106 – An introduction and suggestions to begin an “oven-ready list”

The Clerk had circulated a document suggesting that the Parish Council brings forward an “oven ready” list of items that could be put forward under a S106 agreement.

The Councillors are to read the S106 requirements and bring forward some suggestions.

Financial matters:

a) To note the Parish Council’s financial position.

The financial position was noted as at 31st December 2022

b) To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
502243	Lushland – arborial report	£ 415.00
502244	HMRC	£ 38.80
502245	I King (January salary)	£ 130.00
502246	T Block (January salary)	£ 393.84

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

Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

Cllr Wells asked if there were any plans for the Coronation. The Clerk explained that there would be no

