

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council**  
**Meeting held in on Monday, 15th July 2019**

<b>Present</b>	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair) Peter Turley James Townsend	Rick Martin Jan Oakley-Hills
----------------	---	---------------------------------

In attendance: 1 member of public, Cllr Paul Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by

<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies had been received from Cllr Murphy.	
<b>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda</b> Cllr Fletcher declared a personal interest in the suggested speed limit change as it is close to his home address. (Highways Improvement Plan).	
<b>Minutes</b> of the Meeting on 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> The Clerk had asked Cllr Bartlett about his knowledge of the plan for the exit from Finberry and had circulated the response. The Clerk had not received a response regarding the Health and Safety Training for the Litter pickers from Ashford Borough Council so will approach KALC. The tree cutting had not yet been undertaken. Solar Panel costs for the speed sign are still awaited.	TB  GF/GM/PT GM
<b>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</b> The member of the public had no comment at this time.	
<b>Report from Borough Councillor</b> J10a construction team would like additional hours – 7pm finish in the week and to be able to work Saturday afternoons and Sundays. They want comments on this and it would be in our interests if this were to be allowed.  <i>Cllr Turley had spoken to inconvenienced neighbours and they would agree but would like further compensation.</i>  Bramling Avenue – Cllr Bartlett did not attend this meeting.  Frith Road – application for conversion to 10 dwellings, this is listed under permitted development. <i>The Parish Council felt that it should object to due eviction of businesses and that the area is outside of HOU5a</i>  No news has been received with regard to the mast.  Sky House – there are on-going complaints from the neighbour.  KCC are undergoing a consultation to reduce the A20 from Bockham Lane to Tesco to a 30mph speed limit.  Crest is undertaking a survey regarding the play area on Finberry.  If fly-tipped waste can be traced back to your address, you are responsible and will be fined even if you use a waste carrier – be sure they have a valid waste license.  There have been a number of complaints over the frequency of cutting of the land on the edge of A2070 and the land owners has been reminded of the need to promote pollinator friendly cutting regimes and	

<p>has been sent a copy of KCCs adopted Plan Bee Policy.</p> <p>A trench has been dug at Waterbrook to avoid further issues with travellers staying on the land.</p> <p>Issues with Marden, Kingsford Street are being followed up by Ashford Borough Council.</p> <p>The Sports Club have applied for £10,000 from the Community Grants Awards at Ashford Borough Council.</p> <p>The Planning permission for the Village Hall development will be completed by the autumn.</p> <p>A gas line in Church Lane has been put in.</p> <p>Private plans for the Church at Sevington will be circulated but must remain private at this time. This is from monies raised from S106 agreement from Stour Park, diocese money and other funds.</p>	
<p><b>Report from PCSO</b> No report had been received.</p>	
<p><b>Clerks Report – July 2019</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that there has been no further news on the Planning Enforcement Issues in the Parish</p> <p>Harlequin Mast – No communication received since 29<sup>th</sup> May and a planning application is still expected.</p> <p>New Councillors – Having received a further 2 expressions of interest and having co-opted 2 new Councillors in June, it is hoped that the interested parties will attend the July meeting with the intention to co-opt if all parties are happy to do so.</p> <p>Section 106 agreement and trusteeship of the Village Hall - Much communication has taken place regarding this matter. Geoffrey is better placed to explain the current situation. <i>Geoffrey explained the current situation and the S.106 agreement to all of the Councillors.</i></p> <p><b>De-coupling</b> Keeping the following on the report seems sensible but with updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A minuted resolution to pursue a de-grouping of the Parish Council – <b>minuted 170619</b></li> <li>2. A consultation undertaken to parishioners asking for feedback on the idea.</li> <li>3. A collation of results of the consultation and, if appropriate, a minuted resolution to de-group.</li> <li>4. A formal request sent to Ashford Borough Council (Sarah Hartles) along with a copy of the minuted resolution, the consultation and the results of the consultation.</li> <li>5. A clear financial plan for each of the new parish councils – <b>Partially drawn up previous to meeting on 170619, to be revisited regularly</b></li> <li>6. A list of assets for each of the new Parish Councils – <b>sent to PT following meeting on 170619</b></li> <li>7. Precept amounts for 2020-21 agreed – <b>suggested precepts discussed but to re-visit before finalising</b></li> <li>8. The names of the new Parish Councils agreed</li> <li>9. Confirm the numbers of Parish Councillors for each Parish Council and begin advertising for them.</li> </ol> <p>NB. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 need to be in writing to Sarah Hartles by 1/12/2019.</p>	

As I had a personal crisis which meant I was away from my computer for over a week with little access to emails, I would like to convey my thanks to Cllr Turley who stepped in and took over the important communications on my behalf.

#### **Planning Matters:**

A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:

##### [19/00550](#)

15 The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NA

Proposed Rear Pitched Roof Extension creating a Ground Floor Bedroom and ensuite

The Parish Council raises no comment on this application but respectfully requests that the Officer takes into consideration any comments raised by neighbours.

##### [19/00872](#)

Frith Business Centre, Frith Road, Aldington, Kent

Conversion of light industrial buildings to form ten units (in accordance with the recent prior approval for the change of use of the buildings into ten residential units under reference 18/00714/AS), to include associated building works and parking details.

The Parish Council objects to this application:

The current industrial buildings are providing employment for local people

This would be satellite development, ie outside the Village Envelope and is contrary to policy HOU3a/HOU5

Local employment opportunities should be protected.

##### [19/00579](#)

Land On The North Side Of, Highfield Lane, Sevington, Kent

Approval of the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the 'Phase 1A works' being the works comprising the estate roads, the sustainable drainage system embedded within open space and the landscaping and layout of that open space (including measures specifically designed for ecological/biodiversity enhancement purposes within that open space)

The Parish Council raises the following comments on this application:

This was dealt with at Committee level.

There will be some traffic-calming on Highfield lane and some air-quality testing.

There is a potential for 2,000 jobs and, therefore, additional vehicles travelling to work.

Once built and the traffic has been assessed, then the decision can be made re: additional traffic-calming.

KCC costed a new bridge at £24 million to go over CTRL.

##### [19/00933](#)

Cranwell House, The Forstal, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6NU

Erection of one residential dwelling (resubmissions of permissions 16/00053/AS, 16/01644/AS & 17/00493/AS)

The Parish Council raises no comments this application

##### [19/00950](#)

Land adjoining The Paddocks and Orchard Cottage, Church Road, Sevington, Kent

Erection of 3 dwellings with detached garage serving plot 3

The Parish Council raises the following comments on this application:

This application is very close to the A2070 entrance and the Church road junction. Although the layout is nice this is a small isolated development that is not served by any facilities. This is not an appropriate location as it is on the rural side of the A2070.

##### [19/00977](#)

Chequer Tree Barn, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HL

Rear extension to residential barn and demolition of existing agricultural barn

The Parish Council supports this application

[19/00989](#)

14 Church Road, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0LE

Installation of first floor side window

The Parish Council raises no comment on this application but respectfully requests that the Officer takes into consideration any comments raised by neighbours.

#### Financial Matters

a. To note/authorise the following:

i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position

*The Parish Council bank balance as at 30/06/2019 was £15,289.12.*

ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501936	Boyd Sport and Play Ltd (Football Posts)	£ 834.00
501937	Finberry fete	£ 400.00
501938	Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce	£ 50.00
501939	Clerks Expenses	£ 35.00
501940	The Acorn Workshop – Sevington North Noticeboard	£1180.00
501941	HMRC	£ 77.60
501942	Clerk's salary – July	£ 622.24
501943	Mersham Litterpicker – July	£ 106.73
501944	Mersham Litter picker – August	£ 106.73
501945	Clerk's salary – August	£ 615.80

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

#### To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment

There were no changes to the Risk Assessment at this time

#### Separation of the parishes

The draft consultation was circulated and it was suggested that the "role of a Parish Council" could be added to the supporting documentation.

This is to be amended and sent to Sarah Hartles for comment before delivery.

PT

#### Highways Improvement Plan

Sevington, Finberry and Mersham are to provide their top priority Highways Issues so that they can be sent to KCC for discussion.

All

#### Caretaker Scheme Update

These have all been tidied up and the scheme is on budget.

#### Any Other Business

A bench had been reported to the Parish Council as needing cleaning. Cllr Bartlett thought that this bench might be the responsibility of Housing.

There is a need for the roads to be opened up between developments because there needs to be bus access. Crest won't build a bus stop at present and Stagecoach won't consider a bus route without a bus stop.

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

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 – to be held at the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	
<b>The meeting closed at 9.30pm</b>	