

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 20th November 2023 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present	Gavin Murphy (Chair)	Peter Hawkins
	Donna Pearson	Stewart Ross
	Kenton Stewart	Melanie Wells

In attendance: Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

To receive and approve apologies for absence	
Apologies were received from Cllr McBarnet and Borough Cllr Bartlett. These apologies were approved.	
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 20th November 2023	
Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 20 th November 2023 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.	
The Christmas tree looked really good and thanks were extended for the official opening event. It was also noted that this and the Pram Race were both very well supported village events. A communication had been received and circulated regarding the Solar Development. Cllr Murphy had responded, as had the Clerk. The Parish Council has aligned itself with the Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council and the 2 Chairs are meeting on Tuesday 23 rd January at 11am. Cllr Murphy will circulate the outcome of that discussion.	
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/	
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 on the High Field/IBF.	
Parish Council Objectives for this administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look into using the cut and cover <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The Parish Council agreed to shelve this matter for the time being.</p> <p>The “behind the hedge footpath” is not being used at night. There was a discussion surrounding this and it was agreed that the Parish Council would advertise the footpath’s existence placing adverts in the pub, shop, The Villager and online on Social media.</p> <p>The solar lights on the footpath are excellent but the middle light is solenoid, it was considered that the changing over of this to LED might make the path more user friendly.</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed the light removal at the junction with the A20. It was agreed that this would be added to the Highways Improvement Plan. It is not considered that the replacement of this light is likely</p>	

because the safety critical measures of Kent Highways have changed since it was originally installed hence it is considered safe to remove it.

To receive an update on the Village Hall

Cllr Wells had previously circulated 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:

Application Number	Address	Application to:
PA/2024/0003	Elms Tree Farm, South Stour Road, Mersham	Change of use of land from commercial to residential. Conversion of existing building to dwelling with infill extension to rear elevation and car barn
PA/2024/0014	Stone Green Hall, Flood Street	Listed building consent for demolition of orangery, porch and sun room and erection of a single storey extension to link the main house and the cottage
PA/2023/2388	Stone Green Hall, Flood Street	Single storey side extension with glazed link the main house and the cottage. Extension of wall to front of building
PA/2023/2062	Barnfield, South Stour Road	Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and siting of 2 sheds.
PA/2023/2385	Chequer Tree Paddock	LDC - Existing use of stable building as a dwelling house.
PA/2023/2262	Cherry Rose, Bower Road	Non material amendment to PA/2022/2651 to allow fenestration, wall cladding and a short section of pitched roof changed to flat.

Financial matters:

a) To approve the following financial documents:

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

The Parish Council has £26553.18 in the bank.

2. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
OLT	HMRC	£ 90.40
OLT	I King (January salary)	£ 136.50
OLT	T Block (January Salary)	£ 380.43
OLT	Lushland Ltd (Arborial Report)	£ 425.00

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

Any Other Business

The demarcation of the cross roads around Frith cross roads and Coopers Lane was discussed, this is in hand with Kent Highways.

Drainage issues in Kingsford Street were discussed. The Clerk will report the poor drainage from Blind Lane to Kingsford Hall.

It was noted that Nobby Southen had passed away, condolences are extended to the family.

It is understood that the shop may have new tenants due to start after June.

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

Monday 19th February 2024
Monday 15th April 2024

Monday 18th March 2024

