

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 20th June 2022 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

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

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

To be actioned by:

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Murphy and Stewart.	
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 16th May 2022 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 16 th May 2022 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes not covered by the agenda.	
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/ The bridge repairs on Flood Street are now showing as due to be undertaken in 2024. The Pre-app service for planning applications in Ashford has been suspended as the Planning department need to concentrate on planning applications. New planning software is to be rolled out as of 4 th July. The Planning Application for the annexe at the Manor is to be decided at the Planning Committee in September.	
To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield Additional archaeological digs have been undertaken on site. A car broke in to the fencing last week, this has all been cleared. Additional planting is to be undertaken in September, it was noted that planting to close the gaps has died.	
To discuss the current situation at the inland Border facility There has been little on site development recently. 2 of the IBF sites have been closed due to a lack of demand. The site is under-used due to the Brexit deal that was reached. There are 1600 dogs waiting in France to join their families who are in the UK from Ukraine, Cllr Bartlett suggested that the IBF site could be used to process these dogs. The Goods in to the UK are not being checked and the site is likely to close in 2025.	
To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan) The works on the Highways Improvements agreed is anticipated to begin in July/August. The pedestrian in street sign has been erected near the Sports Club and is appreciated.	
To receive an update regarding the Village Hall Cllr Wells reported that the building works have begun. There is a Village Hall meeting on 4 th July; the developer is to attend this meeting.	
To receive any update on the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations The Jubilee Celebrations were well attended; it is thought that 400 people attended the celebrations. Thanks were extended to the Parish Council for their support.	
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>The following applications required comments:</p> <p>22/00763/AS Land North of Fairlawn, Blind Lane, Mersham Variation of condition 30 (approved plans) on planning permission 18/01/016/AS to amend design of plots 4 and 6, revised garages to Plots 1, 2 and 3 including layout, revised roof design to village hall extension. No objections raised</p> <p>22/00856/AS Cranwell House, The Forstal, Church Road, Mersham Proposed pair of detached garages serving two dwellings plots 2 and 3. Dwellings approved under consent references 17/001699/AS and 21/00742/AS No objections raised, providing these plans do not mean there would be a loss of parking</p> <p>22/00813/AS 7 Oaklands, Mersham, TN25 6HE Proposed replacement porch; single storey side and rear extension, vehicle crossover No objections raised</p> <p>22/00885/AS Upper Bilham House, Cheesemans Green Lane, Mersham, TN25 7HY Change of use of land to provide yard area expansion to afford access; erection of security fencing & gates and provision of new site access roadway (revision to planning permission 21/01721/AS to relocate approved new access roadway to utilise existing entrance No objections raised</p> <p>22/00911/AS Dilton, Broad Oak, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HR Garage conversion and single storey side extension to accommodate car port and garden room to residential dwelling. No objections raised but request opinions of neighbours is considered and providing the plans do not mean there would be a loss of parking</p> <p>09/00081/AM02/AS Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent Non-material amendments to planning permission 09/00081/AS to the proposed A2070 Junction Arrangement (Waterbrook Avenue). No objections raised</p>	
<p>To discuss the issue of parking at the Shop as raised at the APM The parking issues have improved a little but there are still problems for the owners of the property next to the shop. Their gate is regularly blocked by people. The Clerk is to contact Kent Highways and arrange a site meeting to see what improvements could be undertaken in the area. It was suggested that paths should be defined separate to vehicular access.</p> <p>If there is strong interest from a group of residents wanting to purchase the land used for parking, if they come forward, the Parish Council would be willing to listen and assist where possible within the scope of the role of a Parish Council.</p>	TB
<p>To receive an update on the Stonestreet Green Solar Application The documents received from Cllr Murphy had been circulated. There did not seem much to add at this time.</p>	
<p>Succession Planning Following a discussion on the situation going forward after the elections in May 2023, it was agreed that interested parties should be invited to attend meetings to see how the Parish Council operates.</p> <p>The Clerk will place an article in The Villager inviting interested parties to attend the September meeting to see the functions of the Parish Council and to talk to current Councillors.</p>	
<p>Financial matters:</p> <p>a) To note the Parish Council's financial position. The financial position was noted as at 31st May 2022</p> <p>b) To authorise any payments</p>	

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
502217	I King (June salary)	£ 130.00
502218	JRB Enterprise Ltd	£ 111.06
502219	Platinum Jubilee Grant	£ 305.00
502220	T Block (June salary)	£ 388.24
502221	Arthur J Gallagher Insurance	£ 616.73
502222	HMRC	£ 33.40
502223	Village Caretaker Account	£ 5000.00

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

Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

Cllr Hawkin discussed the issue he is having with not being able to obtain a gate on the footpath. Kent PROW state that the site does not meet the criteria require as it is not designated land that should have a gate installed.

The Caretaker is to be asked to clear the debris in Church Close.

Some of the hedges on the path to the Millennium Green and around the green are overgrowing. The Clerk will ask Kent PROW to look into this for the PROW across the Millennium Green, however, the perimeter of the green is the responsibility of the Parish Council and so the Caretaker will maintain the hedge. Cllr Turley to discuss with Caretaker.

PT

TB

PT

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

Monday 18th July 2022

Monday 17th October 2022

Monday 16th January 2023

Monday 20th March 2023

Monday 19th September 2022

Monday 21st November 2022

Monday 20th February 2023

Monday 17th April 2023

All

The meeting closed at 9.10pm