Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in on Monday, 9th April 2018

Gavin Murphy (Chair) Present

Geoffrey Fletcher Rob Hansen Jan Oakley Hills

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

To be acti				
The meeting started at 7.30pm				
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Botfield, Smithers, Turley and Whitehead and Borough Councillors Bartlett and White				
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda Cllr Fletcher declared a personal interest in the Sports Club.				
Minutes of the Meeting on 19 th March 2018 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.				
Matters Arising from the Minutes				
Battery for speed sign A cheque was made out to Cllr Murphy for the new battery. The sign is, however, not working and is due to be looked in order to repair in the near future.	GM			
Millennium Green Path – signage, road tape and path destruction The tarmac at the entrance to the path is broken up and in a poor state of repair. The sign that was ordered is now erected and an additional "Do not block the footpath" has been added to the sign which is good although it is not stopping the inconsiderate parking. There are a number of local residents who continue to block the footpath access when using the shop. This is causing concern for the disabled users and those with push-chairs. There was some discussion with regard to whether the area could have a permanent ground cover installed but there is concern about public money being spent on providing residents with permanent parking. It was suggested that an article could be placed in The Villager asking people to park considerately.	ТВ			
It was agreed that permission from the owners would be sought to make food and tape the entrance to the path. Cllr Murphy will contact the land owner and Cllr Stewart will undertake the work if permission is granted.	GM/KS			
It was also noted that a number of privately owned hedges are protruding onto the path towards the Millennium Green, these are the private owners responsibility to maintain.				
Water across road The water across the roads that was causing problems in icy conditions was reported to Kent Highways.				
Salt bin for Church Road/Milbourn, Sevington South The Salt bin has been installed.				
Parking on the road near T Denne Cllr Turley has arranged a meeting with the school and Denne's on 16 th April in order to facilitate a solution to the parking issue.	PT			
Swing Seats The swing seats have now been replaced. One Councillor had received a positive response to this.				
Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. The path at Kingsford Street is not being maintained correctly. The Clerk agreed to send Cllr Hansen, who	ТВ			

is affected by the lack of maintenance, the PROW Officer's email address so that contact can be made with her in the first instance.

The member of public commented that the double yellow lines in Glebelands have made a difference to the parking problems. Access for an emergency vehicle may still be an issue, when it rains the carpark at Glebelands floods, the drain needs clearing which needs to be reported to the drainage team at KCC. The member of public will report this.

The drain near Blind Lane also needs reporting as it is broken. Members of the public can report any problems they find on the road via https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem
Fly-tipping can be reported via the Country Eye App on a smartphone or to Ashford Borough Council via: https://secure.ashford.gov.uk/ReportIt/Default.aspx

It was noted that the works at J10a might increase the occurrences of fly-tipping.

Report from Borough Councillor POTHOLES

The recent cold weather has caused a deterioration of the road surface in many places in the ward. Please will residents report potholes as soon as they see them at http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem. If you do not have access to the internet call me on 0773 929 3502. During the cold snap gritting lorries were covering the primary roads in 12-hour shifts with two lorries providing gritting through the night on Detling Hill and Blue Bell Hill. Salt bins were refilled as resources allowed it but if you know of one that needs to be topped up please let me know. As you know not all roads are gritted but if there are routes you feel should be added to please let me know so the council can start the review process.

J O-H

BUSES

There will be no immediate change to any bus routes in the Borough. Next month, KCC will launch "The Big Conversation" to better understand what communities want from their public transport services and how they could be better organised to meet that need. This could potentially improve rural access and deliver this at a lower cost. It may replace the conventional subsidised bus services and, in its place, provide greater access for residents. This could include a taxi-bus style service which links rural communities to main-line commercial bus routes or community-led transport services. Discussions will be held with the parish council. There will be a Rural Bus Summit in the summer which will bring everyone together to discuss the way forward.

FINBERRY TRIGGER POINTS

Now Crest have built more than 301 houses on Finberry they are obliged to start work on the bus link to Finberry (from Damara Way). After the 401st occupation, ABC can serve notice on the Church Commissioners requiring Finberry to be connected to the southern link road (from Rutledge Avenue) before 500 dwellings at Finberry can be occupied.

400 completions is the point at which the developers need to agree with ABC the specification for the community centre.

No more than 500 dwellings on Finberry can be served by the left in/left out junction on the A2070 unless tested and agreed 'otherwise'. 'Otherwise agreed' means, following occupation of 475 dwellings at Finberry, traffic surveys must be held to establish morning peak hour and evening peak hour traffic movements to assess the actual impacts on the A2070 junction. The results will enable KCC and ABC to assess whether the maximum 500 dwellings stipulation should remain the trigger point for the all ways traffic lights at the entry to Finberry OR a higher threshold can be agreed.

Report from PCSO

No report had been received this month.

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The Clerk was asked if she would contact KCC and request an update on when the Community Warden would be replaced.

Planning Matters:

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

18/00264/AS

9 Nightingale Close, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0TP

Proposed single storey and two storey extension the rear and change of use of garage to store/office &; extension to rear of garage.

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

16/00284/AS

Land rear of Sky House and Appledown, Bower Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent

Variation of conditions 14 &; 16 on planning permission reference 17/00442/AS (Proposed 2 no detached chalet bungalows with associated outbuilding served off new access road to the rear of Appledown and Sky House. (Amended plans showing dwellings with a lower ridge height)) to amend elevations of both dwellings and to enlarge car barn

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

18/00394/AS

1 Chequer Tree Cottage, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HL

Extension to annexe (revision to 16/01284/AS)

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

18/00365/AS and 18/00366/AS

1 Bower Cottages, The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NG

Installation of conservation style rooflight on rear elevation (revision to location as approved on planning permission 17/00860/AS)

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

18/00390/AS

Unit 9, Hall Avenue, Orbital Park, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0AA

Removal of condition 2 on planning approval 07/00446/AS (No mezzanine floors, other than set out in the application, shall be constructed without the consent of the Local Planning Authority in writing) for the installation of a mezzanine floor on unit 9

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

18/00396/AS

The Grange, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HU

Demolition of Stable and Garage buildings to erect a one bedroom bungalow in a traditional Barn/ Cottage style.

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

18/00464/AS

DVSA, Waterbrook Park, Clover Road, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0TX

Erection of a vehicle inspection building incorporating an internal inspection pit, with associated roller brake testing facilities, landscaping and ancillary works

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

18/00331/AS

Ashdown, Church Road, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 OLD

Construction of a detached double garage

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

18/00485/AS

1 Swithun Road, Finberry, Sevington, Ashford, TN25 7GJ

Erection of a log cabin (Retrospective)

The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours

Note:

The caravan at chequer Tree Paddock is still in residence. This is now a police matter. The Parish Council is to ask Ashford Borough Council, why is it ok to break to the law with impunity, what are the Borough Council going to do about this matter? This shall all be done following the email sent prior to the deadline date issued by the Planning inspector.

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To complete forms required by the bank

Cllr Sawdon completed the bank forms.

Local needs housing and discussions with Church Commissioners

The Church Commissioners own so much land around the village and they have also become aware of the ill-feeling towards them locally so Mr Weir came forward to try and heal the rift. In so doing, Mr Weir became aware f the Sports Clubs desire to buy some land and so found that there is a possibility for the Sports Club to be able to buy some land, discussions with regard to this are on-going. The Church Commissioners have suggested that a small parcel of land to the rear of the existing Local Needs Housing could be considered, if desirable, at a local level for more Local Needs Housing.

Engaging with Finberry

Cllr Oakley-Hills continues to be in touch with residents via the Facebook page and Cllr Bartlett has also now joined. There was an Easter Egg hunt run on Finberry and there seems to be a good sense of community there. The trees with TPOs on a proving difficult to access at present.

Financial Matters

To approve the following financial documents:

To note/authorise the following:

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £30823.88 To authorise any payments including the Clerk's Salary and the Litter picker's Salary

The following payments were authorised:

Cheque	Payee's Name	Reason for Payment	Amount	Notes
501843	T Block	Clerks Salary (March)	£ 401.52	
501844	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – March Mersham	£ 93.60	
501845	T Saint	Litter Pickers Salary – March Sevington	£ 116.13	
501846	HMRC	PAYE	£ 32.80	
501847	T Block	No Parking signs	£ 27.12	
501848	Fenland Leisure	Baby Swing seats	£ 376.00	
501849	Mersham PCC	Donation towards The Villager	£ 600.00	
501850	Mersham PCC	Use of hall	£ 100.00	
501851	HMRC	PAYE	£ 3.00	
501852	I King	Litter pickers Salary (April) Mersham	£ 93.60	
501853	T Saint	Litter pickers Salary (April) Sevington	£ 116.13	

501854	P Turley	Swing accessories	£ 23.18					
501855	T Block	KALC Training	£ 7.20					
501856	T Block	Clerks salary (April)	£ 445.03					
501857	G Murphy	Battery for the speed sign	£ 159.60					
A budget over expenditure and financial statement had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.								
Any Other Business Cllr Sawdon has been approached by a fish and chip van who would like to visit the village once a week. Finding parking is an issue.								
There is a J10a Willesborough forum meeting to be held. Residents of Sevington South have not been made aware of road closures. Junctions 9-11 are closed at night for a week from 8pm – 8am. J10a works have been hindered by the discovery of rare species, there is green netting in place to assist field mice who have been found on site and the black netting is because newts have been found on site.								
The Handyman is looking for additional hours, there is a possibility that he might take on some work in Sevington North on the playing field. Also, Smeeth playing field and Brabourne Playing field may become available for cutting. Maintaining the churchyard is no longer an option. There is a handyman meeting on 10^{th} April to discuss finances as depreciation is not being shown.								
Clair Bell is coming to talk to the Annual Parish meeting at the Church on 21 st May 2018 at 7pm. It was agreed that this would be advertised in the Villager, poster in the village and posts on Faceook pages and Nextdoor website.								
The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 21 st May 2018, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 11 th May, please.								

The Clerk has asked if the April meeting date could be altered to 23rd April as she has family commitments

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.25 PM.

on 16th.