Minutes of Mersham Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 10th October 2022 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair) **Present**

Gavin Murphy

Peter Hawkin **Stewart Ross**

Kenton Stewart

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett, 2 members of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

To be action	
To receive and approve apologies for absence.	
Apologies had been received from Cllrs Turley and Wells.	
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.	
There were no declarations of interest to receive.	
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2022 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 18 th July 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 agenda.	
The 2 members of the public attended the meeting because they wished to know what the Parish Council knew f the road closure on 24/10 for 4 days.	
This is a UKPN closure, Cllr Stewart advised the members of the public to communicate directly with UKPN as the PC will have little effect. KS will support the residents as best he can.	
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 had met with Insp. Vanessa Foster, there is little to report in this area.	
Evolution Power had presented their proposals to Ashford Borough Council, this covers an area of 400 acres, this is being treated differently to the 267 acre plan for the EDF solar farm. EDF is a planning application that is being dealt with by Ashford Borough Council (MPC to respond).	
The Evolution Power application is a NSIP (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project), to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. The PC need to look at these jointly.	
EDF application should be commented on as it affects the NSIP by Evolution Power. The PC is to point out the linkage between the 2, the visual impact will be felt by the residents of Mersham.	ТВ
Cllr Bartlett also reported that National Power pay for electricity and that price is linked to the gas price. These are to be de-linked.	
To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield There was nothing to update on this.	
To discuss the current situation at the Inland Border Facility It is anticipated that the IBF will not be used after December 2025 and an alternative use will be found. It was suggested that the PC ask Daniel Fryd of DfT about their intention and then consult the parish before	

To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan)	
The Clerk is to obtain a time-frame from Kent Highways for the improvements.	
Concern was expressed with regard to the poor state of the hill on Church Road. The Clerk will report this	ТВ
and check with Kent Highways as to when the works might be completed.	
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Update on Broadband	1
The Clerk had communicated with Clive Selley, Chief Executive of OpenReach and there was hope that	
something could be progressed for the remaining homes in Mersham on the Aldington exchange to receive	
Fibre to the Property.	
This to the Hoperty.	
RoSPA Report finding at the JPF	
There were some minor repairs required, Paul will be asked to undertake this. In addition, the Clerk and	TB/PT
Clirs Ross and Turley will take forward negotiations with Strutt and Parker.	/SR
Cili's 1033 and Turiey will take forward negotiations with Strutt and Farker.	/31
Land outside the Village Shop	
Having asked Cllr Bartlett whether ABC are likely to be interested in purchasing the land, Cllr Fletcher	
reported that this was unlikely. Cllr Fletcher is going to suggest to the land owner that she speaks with a	
land agent. The local residents may have an interest in purchasing the land to ensure they can have	
continued use.	
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:	
PA/2022/2097	
Broadlands, Blind Lane, Mersham	
Conversion of the existing double storey garage into a one bedroomed annexe, parking for 8 cars to be	
retained.	
No objections raised	
22/01038/AS	
Delta, Laws Lane, Mersham	
Outline application to build a timber fronted, timber clad 2 storey double garage and office.	
No objections raised	
22/04445/45 0 22/04444/45	
22/01115/AS & 22/01114/AS	
Bell House, Church Road, Mersham	
Installation of solar panels, repair chimney stack and replace windows.	
No objections raised, request that the Planning Officer notes any comments raised by the neighbours.	
D. 10000 10070	
PA/2022/2352	
South Stour Offices, Land at Roman Road, Mersham	
Retrospective change of use of polytunnel 'buildings' to a storage and distribution (classB8)	
No objections raised, request that the Planning Officer notes any comments raised by the neighbours.	
PA/2022/2147	
9 Cherry Glebe, Mersham	
Two storey side and front extension	
No objections raised, request that the Planning Officer notes any comments raised by the neighbours.	
b) The Planning Inspectorate re: Chequer Tree paddock	
The Parish Council will write a strongly worded response.	ТВ
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c) The Planning Inspectorate re: The Public Rights of Way across the IBF

The Clerk is to submit a response to the Planning Inspectorate explaining the objections that the PC raised.

ТВ

To receive an update regarding the Village Hall

Cllr Wells had circulated her report. The work on the new build is moving apace.

There was a discussion about the Village Hall car park and village parking.

To receive an update on the Caretaker Scheme

There was a proposal circulated. This provides a change in ethos and goes against how it was originally set up. Following a discussion, the rationale was accepted and a vote of thanks was given to ClIr Turley and the Clerk for their work in this.

Succession Planning

There was nothing to report at this time.

Financial matters:

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

The financial position was noted as at 30th September 2022

b) To authorise any payments

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Cheque No:	Payee	Amount	
502195	I King (October salary)	£	130.00
502196	HMRC	£	33.40
502197	The Villager	£	480.00
502198	Clerk (October salary)	£	403.24
502199	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£	240.00
502200	T Block expenses	£	55.82
502231	HMRC	£	33.60
502232	Mr I King (September salary)	£	130.00
502233	T Block (September salary)	£	388.04
502234	Caretaker Account	£	3520.00
502235	JRB Enterprise Ltd	£	111.06

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

c) To receive Section 3 of the AGAR (External Auditor Report and Certificate) and note dates set by the Responsible Financial Officer for the rights of inspection, in line with statutory requirements.

The External Auditor Report was noted.

d) To agree to remain opted in to the SAAA Central Audit Appointment Arrangements
The Parish Council agreed to remain opted in to the SAAA Central Audit Appointment
Arrangements.

Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

The litterpicker has been very visible recently.

The Royal Oak is due to be opened in February.

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

Monday 21st November 2022 Monday 16th January 2023 Monday 20th March 2023

Monday 20th February 2023 Monday 17th April 2023

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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