

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 18th March 2024 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

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

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

To be actioned by:

<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Hawkins and McBarnet. These apologies were approved.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 19th February 2024 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 19th February 2024 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.</p>	
<p>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising to discuss.</p>	
<p>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 Call for sites has brought forward the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lagonda Lodge, Kingford Street, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6PF • The Croft, Bower Road, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6NN • Blind Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, England, TN25 6NY • Site at South Stour Offices, Roman Road, Mersham, TN25 7HS • Land at Elm Tree Farm, Mersham, TN25 7HS • (Land around Conscience Farm) Phase 1A, Land South of Ashford • Land at Old Rectory Close • Land East of Bockham Lane • Land West of Bockham Lane • Parcels South of M20 • Land Central to Mersham <p>These sites have not been sifted through for validity as yet so this is a raw list. The list is not just for housing, some of it is other developments ie, retail, battery storage etc.</p> <p>The Clerk has not received a response from David Green regarding the parking at Oaklands, the Clerk will chase and CC Cllr Bartlett.</p> <p>A “No HGV” sign has been installed on the A2070 as of 18/3.</p>	
<p>Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item The member of the public expressed concern about the crossing of the A20 at the Mersham junction now that there is no lighting on site. Safety is imperative here. The junction cannot be seen at a distance. The member of the public is to write to the Cllr Clair Bell raising their concerns. The installation of lights/signage etc will be added to the HIP and discussed with Clair Bell.</p>	

To receive any update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in High Field/IBF

From 30/4, ABC will use the IBF site for Environmental Health Checks, a traffic assessment has resulted from an expected additional 30 lorry movements/day. Live animal checks will begin in April 2025, this will mean more activity on site. Following Brexit, the UK has introduced the requirement for a vet to certify the slaughter of animals. DeFRA will be undertaking checks on seeds and plants from April 2025 too.

Progress is continuing for ABC to purchase the High Field. The land will need maintenance so ABC must be aware that they are buying land with costs associated to it. Cllr Bartlett will be discussing the maintenance costs with James Laidlaw, anything that needs to be added to the list for discussion should be channelled via the Clerk, the list currently consists of: Heras Fencing, maintenance of the land to the north of the path and planting of the turning circle, planting and maintenance of the gated area to avoid unauthorised access.

A Planning Application is expected for the IBF, cross channel operations are not 24 hours so it might be possible to reduce the IBF operating hours.

Parish Council Objectives for this administration

There was no further update on this.

To receive an update on the Village Hall

Cllr Wells circulated an update on the Village Hall.

The gate to the Village Hall had been removed from its hinges this afternoon.

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.

There were no applications requiring comments

Financial matters:

a) To approve the following financial documents:

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

The Parish Council has £23251.98 in the bank.

2. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
OLT	HMRC	£ 90.40
OLT	I King (March salary)	£ 136.50
OLT	T Block (March Salary)	£ 362.43
OLT	JRB Enterprise (dog poo bags)	£ 111.06
OLT	Clerk's expenses	£ 74.25

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

Any Other Business

The Clerk is to chase up the plans for the bridge on Flood Street.

There are a number of blocked drains on Kingsford Street, these have been highlighted with Cllr Clair Bell.

There is a plan to empower residents of Mersham with the details of how to report issues that they come across.

The new waste company starts on 25/3.

Clair Bell, Paul Bartlett, The Chair of the Village Hall and the Mersham Sports Club will be asked to provide a report at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

Monday 15th April 2024