

It was agreed that the Standing Orders should be looked at to change the public sessions to 5 minutes.

Report from Borough Councillor

Cllr Bartlett reported that a member of the public is dissatisfied with the way a planning application has been dealt with.

The case officer for the Village Hall Planning Application is inclined to approve the application but has some concerns about whether the user groups are supportive of the application. Cllr Bartlett is to make contact with Mr Southern as there are some questions about the availability of outside space etc.

There is no update from Highways England with regard to the lorry parking.

Cllr Bartlett is meeting with the case officer on 23rd April regarding Stour Park. It is likely that there will soon be activity starting but as yet no agreement has been reached with regard to traffic lights/roundabout. The area is in Sevington and it is important that this is not lost when the split occurs. The Parish Council will need to concentrate on the detail and check for extensions to Blind Lane etc.

A pub has been considered for Finberry but there was one wanted in Kingsnorth but nothing is coming forward on this. It was suggested that the Church Commissioners should meet with the Parish Council.

There is a new project called "no use empty" which KCC are backing to encourage land lords to get properties back in to use. Any empty properties should be reported to KCC and there are initiatives to use loans and VAT reductions etc in undertaking repairs to properties to bring them back to habitable conditions and then there will be access to letting agencies.

Report from PCSO

No current report had been received.

Planning Matters:

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

16/00124/CONA/AS	Bilham Lawn Parcel B9, Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent	Discharge of conditions 5, 8, 9 & 10
The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application.		
17/01690/CONB/AS	Mercedes Benz of Ashford, Monument Way, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0HB	Discharge of condition 3
The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application.		
19/00468/AS	67 Church Road, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0LF	Proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory
The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application but requests that the Case Officer considers the comments of neighbours when determining this application		
16/01722/CONE/AS	Land between Hinxhill Road and, Hythe Road, Willesborough, Kent	Discharge of conditions: 2, 4, 8 & 34
The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application		

Financial Matters

- a. To note/authorise the following:
- i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position
The Parish Council available funds as at 31/03/2019 were £ 11827.23
- ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501920	Mr I King – Mersham litterpicker	£ 93.60
501921	Mr T Saint – Sevington litterpicker	£ 116.13
501922	HMRC	£ 2.40
501923	Mrs T Block – Clerks salary	£ 468.52

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

It was agreed that the budget would be revisited.

S106 money

It was agreed that S106 money would be requested to fund replacement play equipment of the Lizard at the JPF, replacement benches on the Millennium Green made from recycled plastic, the Sports Club and potentially the informal setting funds being used on the cut and cover strip – negotiations with Union Rail regarding this will be undertaken.

The Captains Wood end of the footpath in Sevington South is to have a noticeboard, we must make the siting of this clear to the developers.

TB

Sevington Sizzle

The Parish Council would like to make a donation towards the cost of this but this would be subject to completion and approval of all of the documents and a request should then be made explaining what the funding would be used for.

Boundary Review

Cllr Turley has discussed the issues of the changes in the Parish Council numbers and the Borough Council have completed their process. A Community Governance Review would need to be followed to request a decoupling of the parish and the Parish Council would need to be able to justify this.

A case needs to be built with all arguments for both situations and how a split would be feasible. It is imperative that the Parish Council do this and carry out a survey to ensure there is enough support for a split to occur. It was suggested that the Parish Council would write to each household to explain why and ask the residents to write back if they disagree.

For Sevington this would need to cover both points of needing further people to come forward and also to explain that this would enable one contact point to liaise with the Finberry management company. Finberry has issues with open spaces, community centre and poor quality of houses.

There would need to be enough people coming forward from Finberry for the Borough Council to be comfortable with a split.

It was agreed that a circular would be drafted for Mersham, one for Finberry and one for Sevington North. The Clerk is to check with Sarah Hartles as to the building of a Business Plan and what her advice would be on the survey. Is lack of response allowed to mean that the residents approve?

PT/GM
TB

There were concerns over Sevington North and the Orbital Park and whether this could be de-parished, has anywhere ever been de-parished? The Clerk is to check this.

TB

It was suggested that some meetings should be held in the Business Centre – the Clerk will make contact

TB

and ask for prices etc. Potentially booking a room for June.	
Planning Enforcement Issues It was agreed that these should be report on under the Clerks Report each meeting.	
Cheesemans Green Lane Traffic issues Bridgefield 3 is to feed in to Cheesemans Green Lane. When Captains Wood is built out, there will be a pavement which may create a narrowed point and will, therefore, naturally slow the traffic down. Crest could be asked about creating a small chicane with pavements to help with this. The PC may need to request and potentially pay for a speed assessment at the point of access. Cllr Clair Bell could be asked to fund this. Also, Crest could be asked to put in a speed sign that could be hard-wired. This could be funded from Section 106 funds. It was suggested that Crest be asked to attend a meeting.	TB
To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment The Clerk is to re-visit the Risk Assessment for beacon lighting for Mersham.	TB
Any Other Business Cllr Turley has been undertaking a review of the Village Caretaker scheme and has asked for updates on finances as costs were as budgeted and the reserves have now built up. Cllr Turley will provide an update in May. It was agreed that Simon Cole of Ashford Borough Council, the Curious Brewery and the Sports Club should all be asked to attend the APM to provide an over-view of current situation. The Parish Council cannot function with only 4 Councillors after the May elections and so there is a need to co-opt. A Tree Warden is required for the parish, the contribution the Parish Council makes should be about £25 per year per warden. A vacancy for a tree warden is to be advertised.	PT TB TB
Date of the next meeting: Monday 20 th May 2019 Monday 17 th June 2019 Monday 15 th July 2019 Monday 16 th September 2019 Monday 21 st October 2019 Monday 18 th November 2019 Monday 20 th January 2020 Monday 17 th February 2020 Monday 16 th March 2020 Monday 20 th April 2020	
The meeting closed at 9.40pm	