

Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council
Meeting held in on Monday, 19th November 2018

Present	Gavin Murphy (Chair) Rob Hansen Peter Turley	Geoffrey Fletcher Kenton Stewart
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In attendance: Cllr Paul Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by

Apologies for Absence Apologies had been received from: Councillors Ken Botfield, Jan Oakley-Hills, Henrietta Sawdon and Lee Whitehead.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda Cllr Fletcher declared an interest in the Sports Club.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 15 th October 2018 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes <i>Sports Equipment and Speed sign</i> The Clerk had contacted Michelle Byrne at Ashford Borough Council and there are grants that can be applied for. The Clerk is to apply to ABC for the sports equipment and to KCC for the speed sign. It was noted that in the meantime, the current sign battery is not lasting more than 4 days, a replacement is to be sought, and Cllrs Murphy and Turley are to look into this.	TB GM/PT
<i>Millennium Green Path –road tape</i> Cllr Stewart will undertake the work.	KS
<i>Speeding in Kingsford Street (Cllr Stewart to report)</i> Cllr Stewart had spoken to the residents who raised awareness of the problem and they reported a slight improvement of late. The residents will be vigilant.	
<i>Response from Borough Council regarding the Planning Enforcement issues in the Parish</i> It was agreed that this would be discussed again at the January meeting	TB
<i>Kerbs</i> Another mobility scooter user has asked for dropped kerbs opposite the Royal Oak, one on the corner near the bus shelter and one on the corner opposite the Post Office. Mobility scooters currently cannot access the bus as they cannot get on to the kerb and have to drive in the road on this particular stretch.	TB
Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. There were no members of public present.	
Report from Borough Councillor Cllr Bartlett reported that he had picked up the key for the new notice board at Finberry, Paul is happy to put up posters if emailed them. There had been a request for a library – the member of the public is liaising with relevant parties. The consultation regarding the proposed closure of the William Harvey Hospital needs to be acted as soon as it is open in 2019. To only have one A&E department in East Kent in Canterbury would mean that a majority of East Kent residents would be more than 30 minutes from an A&E department and there is no money available for road improvements so the area would be incredibly difficult to get to. As part of the 350 more houses on Bridgefield it was noted that there are no off-site play contributions	

<p>from the developer nor £68,000 requested for the play area in Park Farm. The only conclusion that can be drawn from this is that there are limited funds available for off-site contributions.</p>		
<p>Report from PCSO The Community warden is sorely missed and there is no PCSO report sent monthly. A call was received from the Chairman because some huts on land have been vandalised. The Community Warden was helpful and highly valued by both the Parish Council and the School. Cllrs Murphy and Turley are to draft a letter pointing this out.</p>		GM/PT
<p>Planning Matters: A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:</p>		
<p>18/01525/AS</p>	<p>High View, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NS</p>	<p>Erection of a two storey side extension and a single storey rear extension following the removal of the existing garage and garden room.</p>
<p>The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.</p>		
<p>18/01527/AS</p>	<p>Chequer Tree Farm, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HL</p>	<p>Proposed four bedroom agricultural workers dwelling</p>
<p>The Parish Council considered this application and although it is outside of the proposed built envelope, the Parish Council is a strong supporter of local and village requirements for Agricultural Workers. Should this application meet the criteria required of an Agricultural Occupation Condition then the Parish Council raises no objection. The Parish Council would not support anything that falls short of these requirements.</p>		
<p>18/01576/AS</p>	<p>The Shepherds Fold, Broad Oak Farm, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HR</p>	<p>Erection of timber outbuilding &; change of use from agricultural land to garden land (retrospective)</p>
<p>The above application was considered at the most recent Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting. Un-approved building activity is consistently discouraged by the Parish Council and so the Parish Council does not support this retrospective application. The Parish Council, therefore, requests that the Borough Council rejects this application on these grounds. In addition, the Parish Council would like the Borough Council to verify that the size of the garden is appropriate, considering that the land currently has agricultural status.</p>		
<p>18/01600/AS</p>	<p>Land between Hinxhill Road and, Hythe Road, Willesborough, Kent</p>	<p>Variation of conditions 2, 32, 33, 36 of permission 16/01722/AS</p>
<p>The Parish has no comments to make on this application.</p> <p>The Parish Council considered the draft map of the village confines. It was noted that neither Finberry nor Sevington are included in HOU3a or HOU5. Cllr Turley and Murphy will attend the proposed workshop on this map and circulate the information.</p>		
<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>a. To note/authorise the following:</p> <p>i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position</p> <p><i>The Parish Council bank balance as at 31/10/2018 was £31,543.05.</i></p>		

ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501892	HMRC	£ 18.80
501893	Mr I King – Mersham litterpicker	£ 93.60
501894	Mr T Saint – Sevington litterpicker	£ 116.13
501895	Mrs T Block – Clerks salary	£ 501.27
501896	Mr I King – Mersham litterpicker	£ 133.60
501897	Mr T Saint – Sevington litterpicker	£ 166.13
501898	Mrs T Block – Clerks salary	£ 439.18
501899	R Hansen – reimbursement for bunting	£ 150.00

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

The Councillors considered the draft budget and agreed to precept for £19,500. A payment will be made to the Sports Club as a one-off donation if both support and confidence is gained from the Parishioners and the Club.

Thanks were expressed to all those involved in the commemoration of the end of World War 1. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the Fete Committee to ensure they have a risk assessment which includes having animals present on the field.

TB

Draft Survey

A draft survey was circulated and everyone is to take a look and provide feedback to Pete by 23/11. The intention is to circulate the survey in February.

All

KALC

It is felt that contact is being lost between the Parish Council and KALC. The minutes are to be sent to the Chairman. This matter is to be discussed at the next meeting.

TB

Finberry Working Committee

A suggested working-committee or Parish Council sub-committee for Finberry was suggested, this will also be re-visited in January.

To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment

The Clerk is to re-visit the Risk Assessment for beacon lighting for Mersham.

Any Other Business

It was noted that the Sports Club are looking to renew their trust document and would like the Parish Council as a body to be the trustee. The Parish Council would need to be comfortable with this position, and would, therefore, need to know what this would entail and what responsibilities/liabilities the Parish Council might have.

There had been praise for the commemoration event and it was suggested that a couple of events per year should be organised to make more use of the JPF. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the January meeting.

TB

It was questioned as to whether the 30mph sign in bower Road could be moved to encompass the new home. This was investigated previously but suggested that given the last months experience of residents and reports of speeding traffic, a review of traffic movements could be undertaken and the red bands throughout the village renewed.

TB

It was also suggested that speed bumps could be installed in the Street.

TB

Date of the next meeting:

Monday 21st January 2019

Monday 18 th February 2019 Monday 18 th March 2019 Monday 15 th April 2019 Monday 20 th May 2019	
The meeting closed at 9.50pm	