

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 20th September 2021 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair)	Peter Hawkins
	Kenton Stewart	Peter Turley
	Melanie Wells	

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Murphy and Ross.</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. Cllr Fletcher noted a personal interest in an application at Acorn Cottage.</p>	
<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2021 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 19th July 2021 were approved as a true record and were signed as such.</p>	
<p>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters raised.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. There were no members of the public in attendance.</p>	
<p>To receive report from Borough Councillor</p> <p>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/</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett reported that 16 baffles have been installed on the lights bordering Church Road and a further 3 are to be installed. Other lights on the site will be dimmed when not in use.</p> <p>With regard to the National Highways signage – the topographical surveys are not complete. This is possibly linked to DeFRA’s on-site presence having been deferred for six months to 1/7/2022 for onsite checking.</p> <p>Rachel MacLean has now been moved following the cabinet reshuffle so we need to find out who her replacement is.</p> <p>Tracey Kerly has approached Haroona regarding purchasing Highfield. The response was that they are looking at the options but have not yet decided what they wish to do with the land. In due course, Damian Green MP can be asked to ensure the Highfield discussions are not lost.</p> <p>Planning – Cllr Bartlett brought the Council’s attention to the planning application for Waterbrook which includes a link road to “future developments” near Conscience Farm. Cllr Bartlett has ensured ABC and KCC are aware of this. Councillors are asked to provide comment to the Clerk by the end of this week.</p> <p>The archaeological dig from the IBF is to submit a report on their findings.</p> <p>The application for 5 houses in Kingsford Street is to be taken to Planning Committee.</p> <p>The application for the park homes on frith road is to be taken to Planning Committee.</p> <p>There is no hearing date as yet for the appeal for Chequer Tree Paddock.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett has been approached by the applicant at Acorn Cottage.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the Royal Oak application. The Parish Council will submit comments to the effect that a condition is requested that the restoration and opening of the Public House is undertaken prior to the enhancements to the residential aspect. Also to ensure there are adequate toilet facilities.</p> <p>The situation with regard to Mersham Manor was questioned. The owner has been through the pre-application process with Historic England and Ashford Borough Council. They are likely to submit an enabling development application to fund repairs to the barn. There have been some issues as a number of Planning Officers have left the</p>	

Council.			
To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan) There is to be a Highways meeting with Kelly Garrett on 30/9, Cllr Fletcher, Murphy and Turley are to attend. This is to discuss moving the speed sign beyond Quarry View and find a location for the Speed Indicator Device.			
To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield This in the hands of Ashford Borough Council. The Clerk was asked to contact Toby Howe regarding the progress of the previously discussed repairs to Kingsford Street, this will be escalated if necessary.			TB
To discuss the current situation at the inland Border facility Cllr Ross had attended a meeting at the IBF. The Clerk is to ask the DfT for another site meeting in October as proposed but Rachel MacLean MP.			TB
To receive an update regarding the current situation regarding the Village Hall Cllr Wells provided an update on the Village Hall following the AGM, a copy of which will be kept on file.			
To discuss the proposal to create a War Memorial at the end of Church Close. Cllr Fletcher had been approached with regard to creating a war Memorial at the end of Church Close. The Council agreed that in principal they supported the suggested but the site is not something the Council feels it can comment on. It was suggested that the proposer attend the next Parish Council meeting.			
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 list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:			
21/01468/AS	Chequer Tree Farm, Chequer Tree Farm Road, Mersham	Demolition of existing dilapidated barn and stables and construction of new, replacement barn and stables together with the installation of a new manege/riding school.	
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application			
21/01551/AS	South Stour Nurseries, Mersham	Prior approval for change of use of former nursery packhouse into flexible use (Class R) for light industrial purposes	
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application			
21/01518/AS	Lavender Cottage, The Street, Mersham	Erection of proposed porch and external alterations	
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application			
21/01566/AS	Proposed telecoms Mast, land south of Bower Road, Mersham	Prior notification for 1 ground based tower, 6 multi-band sector antenna; 2 DIA transmission dishes; 1 Airo cabinet; 1 MK5B Link AC cabinet; 1 Furo cabinet; proposed fencing; other ancillary equipment and cabling	
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application			
21/01623/AS and 21/01624/AS	Royal Oak, The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NA	Part change of use of Public House to one residential dwelling including single storey rear extension; re-provision of rear car park area for 9 spaces / 2 new electric charging points; bicycle racks to front & rear; new bin stores; hard and soft landscaping works; acoustic fencing.	
The Parish Council commented on this application			
The mast at Bower Farm has been reported to Planning Enforcement.			
Financial matters: a) To note the Parish Council's financial position for the beginning of the new Financial Year. The financial position was noted as at 31 st August 2021 b) To authorise any payments			

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
502130	KWT Consultancy Service	£2706.00
502131	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£ 240.00
502132	Playsafety Ltd	£ 107.40
502133	I King (September salary)	£ 124.14
502134	T Block (September salary)	£ 384.06
502135	HMRC	£ 29.00

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

Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

CLLr Turley provided an update on the Sports Club, the purchase and upgrade of the land is progressing, the Sports Club may require additional funding and the FA have asked for additional information. The Church Commissioners agreed to sell at £10,000/acre when they were at the opening of Quarry View but after valuation they are looking to increase this to £14,000/acre. The Parish Council have offered to contact the Church Commissioners should they not honour their promise.

The RoSPA inspection has taken place and a report has been circulated. CLLr Turley will discuss a couple of outstanding issues with the Caretaker.

A resident had asked about the planting of a Horse Chestnut at Oaklands. After some discussion, it was agreed that this site was not appropriate for a tree of this size when it reaches maturity.

The location of defibrillators in the parish was discussed. The Clerk was asked to contact BT Kiosks regarding placing one in the telephone kiosk.

The Fete committee have asked for permission to use the Millennium Green, this was approved.

The Parish Council is to defer the topics of the Queens Green Canopy and street lighting to the meeting on October.

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

- Monday 18th October 2021**
- Monday 15th November 2021**
- Monday 17th January 2022**
- Monday 21st February 2022**
- Monday 21st March 2022**
- Monday 18th April 2022**

All

The meeting closed at 9.20pm