Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday 19th October 2026 in the Church Room at St John the Baptist Church.

Present:	Melanie Wells (Chair)	Barry Ball
	Peter Hawkins	Gill McBarnet
	Donna Pearson	Stewart Ross
	Kenton Stewart	

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To receive and approve apologies for absence
No apologies for absence had been received.
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.
To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 14th September 2026
Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 14th September 2026 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes that are not covered by the agenda
There were no matters arising to discuss.
To receive reports from the County/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 reported that he has booked a session with Sojan to find out what the Government plans are with the IBF for the future. The Borough Council has objected to the noise condition of the IBF application. The Local Plan consultation timetable is not yet clear. There are sites in the village of Mersham, the Parish Council will need to consider the sites that are being put forward. Cllr Hawkins asked whether there is an update on the streetlights. The trees are the responsibility of the landowner and Cllr Bartlett suggested that either ABC or KCC would be responsible.
Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.
There were no members of public in attendance.
To receive any updates on the following:
i) Highways and Transport matters (to include the Highways Improvement Plan)
The Clerk had received an email that had been circulated regarding concerns about speeding on Church Road. The Clerk had advised that the School needs to complete an up to date Travel Plan before any additional improvements could be taken to KCC. The Clerk had also received a communication regarding the speed of vehicles on the corner by the shop. The Parish Council will discuss the issues with the Highways Department to consider the options.
ii) Village Amenities and infrastructure (to include The Village Hall and beacon)
Cllr Wells had circulated an update regarding the Village Hall. There is a quotation for electrical costs, the PC will subsidise this. Cllr Wells reported that she had met with a member of staff from Playdale, he was going to send a draft plan with costs to the PC. She will circulate the draft plan and costs once received.

Cllr Wells had circulated costs for repairing the beacon, quotation was broken down as requested. Cllr Wells also had a quotation for a new beacon and post. Cllr Ball had also offered to obtain a cost for the repair of the beacon. Cllr Ball obtained a quote for scaffolding for £390 and repair costs for £500. The quotations were all discussed.
There was a discussion regarding the replacement of the pole and a new beacon/post. There were 3 quotations available ranging from £940 to £4,000.

RESOLVED: To accept the quotations from Mark Mealham and Countrywide Access Scaffolding Ltd. Cllr Ball will arrange for collection of the beacon.

iii) Financial matters:

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

The PC noted the £49,819.55 held in the bank account as at 30th September 2026.

b) To authorise any payments

There were no payments to be authorised.

iv) Community Engagement

Cllr Ball introduced his idea for a Fete to be held on the Millennium Green. Cllr Ball offered to provide a marquee. The Sports Club were holding a Fete regularly so it was suggested that they should be approached.

There are parking issues, electric and emergency access is required.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council is happy to have a Fete held on the Millennium Green.

v) IBF Update

There is nothing further to update.

vi) Housing and Development, to include any planning applications

PA/2026/1167 - no objections.

vii) Local Government Reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation is on hold at present.

viii) Local Plan

There is nothing further to report.

Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

Cllr McBarnet is attending the Parish Forum.

Cllr Ball will report back to the Parish Council regarding the Fete. He will also discuss the matters with "The Moving Mersham Forward" group.

Are we going to have a Christmas Tree this year? The PC agreed to provide the tree. Cllr Stewart explained that the lights will be switched on 5th December, Ashford Pantomime will be asked to come along. Cllr Hawkins will speak with the School regarding the choir attending.

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

Monday 16th November 2026	Monday 18th January 2027
Monday 15th February 2027	Monday 15th March 2027
Monday 19th April 2027	Monday 17th May 2027