

Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council
Meeting held in on Monday, 18th November 2019

Present	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair)	Rick Martin
	Gavin Murphy	Jan Oakley-Hills
	James Townsend	Peter Turley

In attendance: Cllr Paul Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by

<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies had been received from Cllr Kennedy and Borough Councillor White.</p>	
<p>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest made.</p>	
<p>Minutes of the Meeting on 21st October 2019 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. There were no members of the public present.</p>	
<p>Report from Borough Councillor</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MERSHAM, SEVINGTON SOUTH & FINBERRY UPDATE DECEMBER & JANUARY 2019</u></p> <p>ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR The issue of ASB in Ashford has been discussed in depth with Ashford Police, coincidentally the meeting was the day after Stagecoach stopped running the B line to Bridgefield due to ASB.</p> <p>The meeting was on the presence of intimidating people having heated discussions, including occasionally asking for money in the town centre at the bandstand and fountain. The offenders may include those who are genuinely homeless, unsettled adults and local youths.</p> <p>ABC work closely with Porchlight and have regular rough sleeper working group meetings. Incidences of rough sleeping should be reported directly to Porchlight through their website. ABC have 12 open cases of homelessness that they are working on but in addition there are 5 people who are homeless but unwilling to accept any help from ABC. A count of the homeless in Ashford is due to be carried out on 18th November 2019.</p> <p>The police have two PC's and two PCSO's in Ashford town centre. In addition, other PCSO's can be drafted in from other areas. There are 10 probationary officers in the Ashford area, CCTV in Ashford is good quality and ABC have commissioned a project to convert the system from analogue to digital which will increase its capacity and how it operates as part of Ashford Partners Against Crime (APAC). An application has been submitted to continue the Public Space Protection Order in the town centre and it may now be necessary to have on in Bridgefield.</p> <p>Other workstreams include Ashford Street Pastors who operate on Friday and Saturday nights and neighbourhood watch. This is led by Andrew Judd, who operates out of the Police Station and happy to meet parishes. Operation "Clean Sweep" will take place on 4 December 2019 in co-ordination with ABC CSU. This will monitor all cases of ASB on a single day.</p> <p>I have agreed to see whether my KCC members grant can be used to purchase a decibel meter so the Police can enforce the noise limits on motor vehicles.</p>	

A summary of how best to report ASB has been circulated and the Police stressed how important it was to report ASB so resources can be deployed to the correct area.

Making it easier to get in touch

<p>In an EMERGENCY only call</p>  <p>999</p> <p>when life is in immediate danger or when a crime is in progress</p>	<p>Report ONLINE</p> <p>The easy way to report crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report a crime, incident or non-injury collision in minutes Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately 	<p>Front counters</p>  <p>You can report issues to one of our front counters. To find your nearest one visit our website.</p> <p>www.kent.police.uk/contact</p>
<p>Crimestoppers</p> <p>Call 0800 555 111</p> <p>100% anonymous. Always.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are not the police • Nobody will know you have helped us • They pay cash rewards of up to £1,000 <p>www.crimestoppers-uk.org</p>	<p>Hate crime reporting hubs</p> <p>Visit one of our reporting hub drop-in surgeries based in Medway.</p> <p>You don't need an appointment (in most cases) and will be given advice and support by a trained team member.</p>  <p>www.kent.police.uk/hatecrime</p>	<p>ActionFraud</p> <p>Report Fraud & Internet Crime</p> <p>Report online fraud or scams to ActionFraud</p> <p>Report 24/7</p> <p>actionfraud.police.uk</p> <p>0300 123 2040</p> <p>Mon-Fri 8am to 9pm Sat & Sun 9am-5pm</p>
<p>Ask the Police</p> <p>No need to phone. Get an instant answer online.</p> <p>Browse the A to Z question finder</p>  <p>www.askthe.police.uk</p>	<p>True Vision</p>  <p>Visit the True Vision website to find out more about hate crime, what to do if you are a victim and to make a report online.</p> <p>www.report-it.org.uk/home</p>	<p>Country Eye – rural crime app</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snap a photo of the suspicious behaviour, incident or concern. Receive updates and alerts on the incident you submit. Tell us where you are or use your phone's built in GPS location. <p>www.countryeye.co.uk</p>
<p>Nuisance and environmental issues</p> <p>Contact your local council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise complaints Abandoned vehicles Fly tipping <p>www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council</p>	<p>101</p> <p>Call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • property damaged • suspect drug use or dealing or • give information about crime • have a general enquiry 	<p>Contact the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to OPCC, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone, ME15 5EX • Call on 01622 677055 • Email contactyourpcc@pcc.kent.police.uk • Twitter @PCCKENT • Visit the website www.kent-pcc.gov.uk 

KCC BUDGET 2020/21

KCC is seeking your views on Council Tax and spending priorities to help them to shape and balance the 2020-21 Budget. This consultation closes on 25th November 2019. Please click on the link to participate or find out more www.kent.gov.uk/budget

TRANSPORT IN THE SOUTH EAST

Transport for the South East is an organisation working with KCC on a plan to achieve a better transport for the South East. This is because transport is at the heart of a better future, better for the 7.5m people who live and work in the south east, better for business and better for our planet. Transport in the South East want to tackle issues like congestion, air quality, employment, housing and energy while growing a sustainable economy – together and in a joined-up way. They are looking for input to help make it happen. Please visit <https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/transport-strategy/> and take part in the consultation.

CHARGING FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE IN A PERSONS OWN HOME OR THE COMMUNITY

KCC are seeking views on proposed changes to their charging policy for adult social care services provided in a person's own home or in the community from April 2020. Full details of the proposal can be found in the Consultation Document at

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/adultsocialcarecharging/consultationHome>

It also provides some examples of how the proposed changes may affect people. The Frequently Asked Questions document may also help to answer any questions. To give your views, please complete the online questionnaire.

If you have any queries, please contact 03000 422557 or email adultsocialcarecharging@kent.gov.uk. Please ensure your response reaches KCC by Midnight on Sunday 8 December 2019.

FLY TIPPING

KCC has committed £250k to reduce the level of flytipping in Kent. The aim is to assist districts and police to undertake further enforcement and inform households and businesses of their duty of care and responsibilities on waste disposal. Across Kent the number of flytipping incidences reduced 148 Q2 2018 to Q2 2019 (down 3.3%). The actions include:

- (i) Employing a dedicated Intelligence Analyst to support the environmental crime agenda across Kent to allow more successful interventions and prosecutions.
- (ii) Started Op Assist with the districts enforcement team to target prolific flytippers.
- (iii) Police resources following KCC investment have doubled in numbers to 12 PCs, 1 Sgt, 1 Coordinator and 1 Inspector.
- (iv) Additional enforcement technology has been purchased including trackers, smartwater and covert cameras.
- (v) New signage utilising the #keepkentclean branding is being deployed. "Take Your Litter Home" signage has also been deployed at key locations.
- (vi) KCC and police and NFU have contacted the Magistrates Association to raise awareness of environmental crime to encourage larger fine or sentences to be given.
- (vii) A communication campaign is being launched to explain to residents and small businesses their duty of care and starve illegitimate disposal businesses of custom.

DEMENTIA CARE

KCC is seeking people's views on the future of community-based wellbeing services for older people, adults living with dementia, physical disabilities or sensory impairments. KCC spends £5.9m on these services each year, across 52 voluntary and community organisations. This funds befriending, volunteer run transport schemes, dementia cafés, support services for people with sensory impairment and peer support for people with physical disabilities.

KCC aims to create a new service model designed to make sure everybody has the opportunity for their wellbeing needs to be met, wherever they live in the county and whatever a person's ability. The new model will deliver wellbeing services that are easier to access, better connected and focused on the things people have told the council are important to them.

Please visit the consultation page www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation. It is open until December 1.

MENTAL HEALTH

Following World Mental Health Day on 10 October, KCC is reminding residents of the support services available across the county.

There is a free NHS-approved online tool which helps people build an action plan to deal with stress and anxiety, boost their mood, improve their sleep and help them feel more in control. This can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/everymindmatters

One of the support services commissioned by KCC is Live Well Kent which provides a free, person centred, holistic service that supports people to manage issues in life that impact on their mental health and wellbeing. It is open to any Kent residents aged 17 or older. Live Well Kent works in partnership with clinical services providing an alternative which is focussed on wellbeing, connectivity, prevention and recovery. It is based on open referrals – anyone can access help when they need it – for more details, go to www.livewellkent.org.uk or call 0800 567 7699.

For young people, there is a new web resource attached to the Kent Resilience Hub available at www.kentresiliencehub.org.uk offering information on promoting and protecting good emotional health. This includes videos and tools, as well as activities and service information. These resources have been developed by HeadStart Kent which aims to help young people cope better when faced with difficult circumstances in their lives, preventing them from experiencing common mental health problems

TRADING STANDARDS

Trading Standards works with businesses and develops partnerships to drive Kent's economic growth and protect residents. Their work includes:

- investigating persistent and/or serious criminal activities, in particular, those involving fraud, counterfeiting, and persistent consumer detriment,
- supporting businesses by offering professional business advice and guidance, including Primary Authority Partnerships,
- auditing high-risk businesses such as farms, food and feed producers, importers, wholesalers and retailers,
- providing animal health and disease outbreak advice,
- carrying out regular market surveillance, such as at Kent ports, markets and boot fairs, to prevent unsafe or illegal products entering the market, and
- reducing the illegal sale and access to tobacco and alcohol.

KCC's Complex Investigations Team has been funded to raise awareness of financial abuse. A despicable crime that targets vulnerable homeowners. KCC wants health professionals, carers, friends, family and neighbours to be aware of the seriousness of this crime and how to recognise the signs. Watch this hard-hitting film and learn how to <https://mailchi.mp/kent.gov.uk/trading-standards-highlights>

KENT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

Kent Scientific Services is KCC's in-house Public Analyst, Toxicology and metrology calibration laboratory. Their work includes:

- providing analysis to HM Coroners to support decision making in establishing cause of death,
- providing analysis and testing for Trading Standards Services in Kent and also across the South to support their work in ensuring the safety of food and animal feed,
- providing analysis and testing to Port Health Authorities across the South to support their work ensuring unsafe food and animal feed does not enter the country and wider EU,
- meeting the KCC's statutory responsibility to maintain standards of weight and measure under the Weights and Measures Act. Also providing this function to other local authorities in the Southeast,
- providing testing and consultancy to Trading Standards Services across the country and to the Office for Product Safety & Standards, supporting their work to ensure that unsafe consumer goods do not enter the marketplace,
- providing testing and analysis to businesses, supporting them in their efforts to comply with legal requirements,
- providing metrology calibration to businesses, supporting their internal quality systems, and
- providing an accredited Alternative Dispute Resolution scheme, helping consumers and businesses

resolve their differences without the need to go to court.

RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The KCC Resilience and Emergency Planning Service is tasked with ensuring the County Council and the communities it serves are resilient, and that contingencies are in place to respond to any emergency situation. Key responsibilities of the service include:

- developing and maintaining resilience documentation including major emergency, business continuity and recovery plans,
- providing appropriate resilience advice and support across the council,
- ensuring the operation of a 24/7 command rota, and Emergency Reservist and Tactical Manager response teams,
- alongside the Duty and Recovery Director, supporting the corporate response to any major emergency impacting KCC or the wider county, and
- represent KCC on the Kent Resilience Forum (which has been preoccupied with Brexit) and other multi-agency groups.

The video at <https://mailchi.mp/kent.gov.uk/resilience-emergency-planning-highlights> shows highlights from their recent work.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Community Safety Unit works at both a strategic and operational level, it consists of the multi-agency Kent Community Safety Team (KCST) and the frontline Kent Community Warden Service (KCWS). We work in partnership to help to create and support safer, stronger and more resilient communities.

Its work includes:

- leading and coordinating on cross-county community safety matters, engaging with District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships and developing and delivering Kent's Community Safety Agreement,
- management and coordination of all Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) for Kent and Medway,
- supporting front line practitioners and decision-makers with Community Safety and DHR information, learning and training,
- providing a visible, proactive Community Warden Service, embedded within communities. The Wardens' role includes;
 - Being catalysts and facilitators for community development.
 - Addressing social issues such as loneliness and social isolation.
 - Supporting older and vulnerable residents to live safely and independently.
 - Tackling low-level crime and safety concerns.

KCC Wardens and KCST Officers are dedicated and compassionate about improving the lives of Kent's residents and the services they receive.

CORONERS COURT

Coroners are independent judicial officers with a statutory obligation to investigate in excess of 8,000 reported deaths and cases of reported Treasure in Kent & Medway each year. KCC supports all aspects of the delivery of the coroner services on behalf of the Senior Coroners and employs the Coroner Service Team.

The Coroner has a legal duty to investigate certain deaths or cases of Treasure that are reported and to hold an inquest hearing where necessary.

The video at <https://mailchi.mp/kent.gov.uk/coroner-services-highlights> shows highlights from their recent work.

EKHUFT COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

There will be an election at the end of this year for the vacancy in Ashford constituency on 1 March 2020.

If anyone is interested in standing as a candidate in the elections please contact Amanda Bedford, Governor and Membership Lead on 01233 651891 or at Amanda.bedford1@nhs.net

There is also an opportunity to become a member of the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb). Membership is free and crucially you can then vote or stand in Council or Governor elections and can attend to observe Board and Council meetings. Contact the Membership Office ftmembership@secamb.nhs.uk

Paul Bartlett

Damian Green has spoken to Stagecoach regarding the Bridgefield service. If Damian is re-elected he promised the service will be re-instated and it will also include a service through Finberry. Cllr Bartlett has been investigating the retrieval of some of the funds given to Stagecoach by KCC for the service they have withdrawn because of Anti-Social Behaviour. A camera will be placed on the bridge as it is a problem area but the issues could just be displaced.

Kent Police have 10 new probationary Officers and Ashford have been promised 2 of these once trained. Any AntiSocial Behaviour must be reported as Police resources can then be deployed to address the issues.

There have been reports of verge damage due to the lorries delivering the materials required for building the "turning circle at the end of Kingsford Street. Once this has been built the contractor has agreed to undertake verge repairs. There is no alternative access to Kingsford Street.

The situation with Chequer Tree has yet to be resolved so it was agreed that the Parish Council will request another meeting with Tim Naylor as the previous meeting was useful and there are other planning issues to follow up.

Report from PCSO

No report had been received.

Clerks Report – November 2019

Planning Enforcements

There has been no further news on the Planning Enforcement Issues in the Parish and all listed below have been reported to ABC.

Chequer Tree Paddock is on-going. Planning application refused.

Pettworth – the situation is being monitored

Correspondence

Harlequin Mast – A pre-application letter and drawings were received and an application at the new site is expected.

Having been approached by a resident of Church close who claims that the Close is adopted and should, therefore, be swept. Ashford Borough Council claim it is unadopted and that is why it is not swept. Any information to prove adoption or otherwise would be most helpful.

The Borough Council/County Council have now agreed that the Close is adopted and will be sending in a sweeper and checking what additional work is required.

Discussion re: unadopted roads in Finberry followed

Avocet Way has been adopted and the 4 trunk roads on Finberry will be adopted but none of the side roads will be. It was suggested that the Finberry based Councillors should look into what HML (Management company) are responsible for ie: Street lights, verges, road repairs, footpaths, bridges, surrounding land etc. A clear example of the contract as to their responsibilities is required.

De-coupling – to be finalised at this meeting

Keeping the following on the report seems sensible but with updates:

1. A minutes resolution to pursue a de-grouping of the Parish Council – **minuted 170619**
2. A consultation undertaken to parishioners asking for feedback on the idea – latest copy circulated

and amendments suggested by Sarah Hartles.

3. A collation of results of the consultation and, if appropriate, a minuted resolution to de-group.
4. A formal request sent to Ashford Borough Council (Sarah Hartles) along with a copy of the minuted resolution, the consultation and the results of the consultation.
5. A clear financial plan for each of the new parish councils – **Partially drawn up previous to meeting on 170619, to be revisited regularly**
6. A list of assets for each of the new Parish Councils – **sent to PT following meeting on 170619**
7. Precept amounts for 2020-21 agreed – **suggested precepts discussed but to re-visit before finalising**
8. The names of the new Parish Councils agreed
9. Confirm the numbers of Parish Councillors for each Parish Council and begin advertising for them.

NB. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 need to be in writing to Sarah Hartles by 1/12/2019.

Planning Matters:

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

19/01495/AS

7 Cormorant Place, Finberry, Sevington, Ashford, TN25 7FT

The installation of a garage door within the car barn.

The Parish Council understands that this is not allowed under the planning covenant when initially built.

11/00473/COAB/AS

Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent

Part discharge of condition 14 (Landscape and Public Open Spaces Management Plan (Part B) Green Street and the Grove at Captains Wood

The Parish Council is to look at this again, this should specify what obligations are being passed to HML.

19/01575 and 19/01576

The Bakery House, The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NA

Change of Use and conversion of former bakery to single dwelling; Erection of 6ft boundary fence; Demolition of privy and covered link; removal of shed and holly tree; installation of garden gate. Internal and external alterations including the construction of a staircase and new entrance door in flank wall.

The Parish Council supports this application as it is positive to see the building being put to use.

RM/JT/CK

Financial Matters

- a. To note/authorise the following:

- i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position

The Parish Council bank balance as at 31/10/2019 was £15961.48

- ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501962	Mersham Litterpicker – November	£ 106.73
501963	Sevington Litterpicker – November	£ 125.86
501964	HMRC	£ 118.80
501965	Mersham Litterpicker – December	£ 146.73
501966	Sevington Litterpicker – December	£ 150.06
501967	Kent Chamber of Commerce	£ 60.00
501968	Clerk's Salary – December	£ 615.80

501969	Solar powered battery	£ 188.14
501970	Clerk's Salary – November	£ 623.90

A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.
The Clerk was asked to produce a year end forecast ahead of the next meeting.

iii. To agree the draft budget for 2020/21

Draft budgets for Mersham and for Sevington were circulated. These were approved as per the figures in the consultation documents.

iv. To agree and set the Precept for 2020/21

It was agreed that the Parish Council would precept for £12,248 for Sevington with Finberry and £25,724 for Mersham = Total precept of £37972

To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment

There were no changes to the Risk Assessment at this time

Separation of the parishes

A draft de-grouping proposal had been created and circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Turley will complete the document and send to the Clerk. The Clerk will write a covering letter and submit the document to Sarah Hartles for agreement through the full Council Meeting.

The Clerk will ask Gerald for support of the de-grouping.

The Parish Council agreed unanimously that it resolves send to Ashford Borough Council via Sarah Hartles a request to ungroup as a joined Parish Council and to act as 2 separate Parish Council to be called Mersham Parish Council and Sevington with Finberry Parish Council.

To agree the position on providing grants for community events

The Parish Council discussed issues surrounding the grant giving process. It was agreed that no grants would be given to individuals in future and that the Parish Council would create a grant application policy/process.

It was agreed that Cllr Martin would write a letter to the current activity organiser to explain that a proper account is required in order that funding can be provided in future. This letter will include the need for a constitution and properly appointed positions to a committee.

To consider request for air quality monitoring on A2070

It was agreed that because of the potentially poor air quality on the A2070, the Parish Council would contact Ashford Borough Council and ask if they would fund some air quality monitoring along this road. It is causing concern because it is the link road for all of the developments in the surrounding areas.

Any Other Business

Thanks were expressed to the Caretaker for clearing up the fly-tipping on Bower Road. The addresses found amongst the rubbish have been sent on to ABC. The Manager at Dennes is also thanked for allowing the use of his skip for the discarding of some of the dumped material.

A matter of concern has been reported to the Parish Council Chairman by 3 residents in Aldington frith with regard to the dangerous cross roads and the nasty accident at the former Good Intent pub.

It was agreed that copies of the emails would be forwarded to Clair Bell asking her for advice as to what can be done to alleviate the problems that surround this very dangerous cross roads.

VE Day 75 – 8th – 10th May. The letter regarding this will be circulated again and 2 sub-committees will be formed to take this forward.

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

meeting of the Council

Monday 20th January 2020 – to be held at the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

Monday 17th February 2020– to be held in Mersham

Monday 16th March 2020 – to be held at the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

Monday 13th April 2020

Monday 18th May 2020

The meeting closed at 9.10pm