Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in the Church Room, St John the Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 16th January 2017

PresentPete Turley (Chair)Geoffrey Fletcher

Gavin Murphy Jan Oakley-Hills Henrietta Sawdon Mick Smithers Kenton Stewart Lee Whitehead

In attendance: Tracey Block (Clerk), Graham Kingston (Community Warden), Paul Bartlett

2 members of the public

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The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hansen and Kibble.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda	
Cllr Fletcher declared a personal interest in the Mersham Fete once it was discussed under Any Other Business.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 21 st November 2016 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes	
Barrey Road/Church road signage	
The Clerk has contacted Kent Highways, Ashford Borough Council and Highways England with regard to the signage problems highlighted at the last meeting. Despite Highways England KCC responding to say that they could not help with these issues, the Clerk had received the following email: "Thank you for your enquiry regarding HGVs inappropriately entering Church Road from Barry Road despite the overnight HGV parking ban. We are aware of this problem and I am pleased to inform you that our Highways Engineering Support Officer has ordered some signs to advise drivers that Church Road is not suitable for HGVs and these signs will soon be placed. Hopefully this will stop HGVs accessing this road and causing all sorts of problems when they try to get out. We will continue to enforce the double yellow lines here should these vehicles park.	
Yours Sincerely	
Mike Cook Civil Enforcement Team Leader	
Ashford Borough Council"	
It was also noted at this point that the Clerk had circulated an email regarding freight and HGV parking. There is a consultation with regard to this matter and Cllrs Murphy, Turley and Whitehead are to look at this consultation and report back at the next meeting.	GM/PT/LW
New bin requests The Clerk had received notification from Ashford Borough Council that a bin review is being undertaken and so no new bins can be purchased at this time. It is hoped that the review will be completed by the summer. As this leaves the bin in Sevington North without a lid still and foxes scattering the bin contents, it was agreed that the sub-committee could put together costings and offer their time to fit a new bin, once received the Council would consider purchasing a new bin.	
Church Road sweeping The Clerk has written to Ashford Borough Council asking that the road sweeper continue to sweep the road past the last few houses in Church Road but it was reported that this has not been undertaken. The Clerk is to follow this up.	ТВ

Hatched road markings at the other end of Church Road (beyond the bollards) The Clerk has requested this but it is unlikely that this will happen because of costs. At this point Cllr Whitehead interjected with comment from the meeting attending this evening where a proposal was put forward that the bollards should be placed at the Church Road, Barrey Road junction and the access to Sevington Lane opened up. This would affect 123 houses but the reduction in traffic is significant.	
Bench at the Royal Oak Ashford Borough Council have agreed that the replacing of the bench is acceptable and so the Parish Council agreed to purchase a replacement bench from Realise Furniture as bought for Broad Oak. The Clerk is to organise for the bench to be delivered to Cllr Murphy.	ТВ
Sevington South newletter sign-up page The Clerk had designed and posted a newsletter sign up page on the website for Sevington South. It was decided that without The Villager it would be a good idea to data capture as many email addresses as possible and email local news to the parishioners directly from the Parish Council. Some thought is needed about this, the first step would be to obtain a domain name with a very easy title that links to the current website. The Clerk will look into this.	ТВ
Rectory Close – grass cutting Cllr Murphy suggested he would put together a short flyer to drop in to the houses in old Rectory Close with regard to the duties of the Village Caretaker. This will be circulated prior to being distributed.	GM
Litter-picker for Sevington The Clerk has forwarded the completed questionnaires to the 2 applicants and Cllrs Sawdon and Oakley-Hills will be undertaking interviews as soon as is practicable.	HS/JO-H
Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. Mersham Play Area – Mr Pollock explained that he and Cllr Turley had attended the Playing Field and looked at the remedial work that is required.	
Sevington – Mr Whybrow raised a problem with business advertising at the Barrey Road entrance in particular. It was agreed that Mr Whybrow would take some photographs of the problem areas and forward to the Clerk who would contact Planning Enforcement with regard to this problem.	ТВ
Mr Whybrow raised the need for the telephone kiosk to be painted. This was discussed at the last meeting and BT have already agreed that it is their responsibility and they will undertake this in 2017.	
Report from Borough Councillor	
DAMIAN GREEN MP Damian will be at the Village Hall, Mersham at 6.00pm on Friday 17 th February 2017. Please come along and hear from the Town's MP. This is a great opportunity to ask questions on matters that are important for the area. This is to be advertised mainly through word of mouth but also through the notice-boards and the website.	
PETWORTH An appeal has been submitted and this is now in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate.	
CHEQUER TREE The enforcement notice on this property expires in March 2018, if this is breached then it will become a Police matter.	
Paul Carter Paul Bartlett met with Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council. They discussed Waterbrook and Barrey road. As far as Waterbrook is concerned, KCC is not keen for the lorry park to be expanded because it has been seen many times that any residential areas near lorry parks have lorries in the residential areas over-	

night if the lorry park becomes full. Once the decision on the lorry park at Stanford is known, KCC would be more interested in seeing 3 smaller lorry parks across Kent. It was suggested that the Officers have a planning meeting with residents and the Parish Council.

The stopping order for traffic to enter Kingsford Street/Highfield Lane is to be completed. If there are more than 5 objections to the plans for the stopping order then the matter must go to the Joint Transportation Board.

The Local Plan is continuing and we await the omission sites to be announced.

Report from Community Warden

Graham Kingston reported that there had been 2 thefts, one of 40 bags of coal and another of a ride-on mower.

An electric fence in Church road, Sevington had caused some concern to residents but Graham Kingston has checked and there are no regulations against this.

The Nursery has now opened in the Village Hall.

The vehicle previously reported having been parked for a very long time in Kingsford Street has now been moved

The Community Warden had phoned the Environment Agency himself as he saw waste being buried at Petworth.

To receive an update following Cllr Turley's visit to the JPF

Cllr Turley reported that he had undertaken some research and the green matting needs replacing, it was NottsWard surfacing originally so it was agreed that some quotes would be sought for the replacement of this surface.

The Caretaker is to undertake painting of the play equipment as a project in Mersham, the slide will possibly need some repairs doing as will some ears on a spring based toy. Cllr Turley will write up the discussion he had with Paul and forward it to Sue, the Parish Council are happy to pay for the consumables of about £300.

To consider inaugural plans to join the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1. 1000 Beacons of Light will be lit at 7pm on the 11th November 2018 and will represent "the light of hope". A beacon must be registered to be a part of the commemoration.

It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the registration form for this.

To receive an update on the Sub-Committee following the inaugural meeting on 17th January.

The sub-committee are to meet on Tuesday 17th January, the agenda for this had been circulated and the Parish Council noted that the bin would be discussed on Sevington Park, the Parish Council were not keen to adopt the park for insurance, financial and checking reasons. There would be nowhere to place a beacon if Sevington North had one.

Planning Matters:

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

Reference: 16/00008/ESA/AS

Address: GSE Plant Haulage, Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue Proposal: EIA Scoping request for land north of Cheeseman's Green Lane.

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Reference: 16/01826/AS

Address: Land north and east of, Brambling Avenue, Finberry, Sevington

Proposal: Erection of a pumping station and associated hardstanding for service vehicle parking, construction of part of Distributor Road E, incorporation of additional swale and associated landscaping

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

Reference: 17/00031/AS

Address: Mercedes Benz of Ashford, Monument Way, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0HB

Proposal: Replace existing signage with 2 internally illuminated signs and 1 replacement flag.

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Reference: 17/00038/AS

Address: Rail unloading site at Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent

Proposal: Erection of a pumping station and associated hardstanding for service vehicle parking, construction of part of Distributor Road E, incorporation of additional swale and associated landscaping Section 73 application for proposed variation of condition (3) of planning permission AS/16/1192 to accommodate improved noise mitigation measures in respect of operations associated with Network Rail's

Track Maintenance Train located at the Waterbrook Park Railhead, Sevington, Ashford

Cllr Oakley-Hills will look at this and provide comment, the lighting is very intrusive.

Financial Matters

To approve the following financial documents:

i. To note/authorise the following:

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £31,802.66.

To authorise any payments including the Clerk's Salary and the Litter picker's Salary

The following payments were authorised:

Cheque	Payee's Name	Reason for Payment	Amount	Notes
501759	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – January	£ 93.60	
501760	T Block	Clerks Salary – January	£387.89	
501761	HMRC	Tax paid on Salaries	£ 29.40	
501762	Sue Heritage	Sevington Christmas Tree Lights and rope	£ 51.98	

A budget over expenditure and financial statement had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

The Parish Councillors unanimously agreed overtime to be paid to the Clerk for the Sevington subcommittee meetings.

Any Other Business

Cllr Whitehead reported further on the meeting chaired by Gareth Bradford regarding the A2070/Barrey Road junction.

Only injury related data will be given, therefore, all minor accidents go unreported.

There is expected to be a significant increase in traffic by 2033 and the only real solution is a roundabout or traffic lights but these will both cost £4.5 Million.

There is to be a one month trial of reducing the speed Northbound to 40mph with mobile cameras being installed so that it is enforceable.

With news that The Villager is no longer being printed, the Parish Councillors feel that more could be made of the Roundabout section of the Kentish Express but also an invitation to provide the Parish Council with an email address should be drafted. The Clerk was asked to undertake the drafting of the invitation, a door to door collection will be made over a period of time to collate a database of all email addresses. As for an easier web address to link to the Parish Council website, www.mspc.org.uk was suggested, this is available for £8 for 2 years. The website is to be updated with organisation contacts.

TB

Cllr Turley suggested further lighting was required for outside the Royal Oak next year, the link will be sent to the Clerk so further lights may be purchased.

Cllr Sawdon asked whether the Parish Council would like to sponsor the Village Fete further by, perhaps,

paying for the toilets. It was agreed that the Fete Committee should come back to the Parish Council with a list of items not yet paid for nearer the time.	
The Village Caretaker had asked whether he could cut the hedge at the Village Hall, this was deemed as agreeable to the Parish Council.	
The hedge cuttings in Blind Lane were not cleared up. A discussion ensued as to who owned the land upon which the hedges are growing.	
The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 20 th February 2017, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 10 th February, please.	All
There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.20 PM.	