

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Skype**

<b>Present</b>	Peter Turley (Chair)	Geoffrey Fletcher
	Peter Hawkins	Gavin Murphy
	Stewart Ross	Kenton Stewart
	Melanie Wells	

In attendance: Borough Councillor Paul Bartlett, 1 member of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence.</b>	
There were no apologies for absence.	
<b>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.</b>	
Cllr Bartlett noted an interest in the Inland Border Site due to the proximity of the site to his property. Cllr Stewart declared an interest in planning application 21/00187/AS due to the proximity of his property to this application.	
<b>To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>	
<b>Minutes</b> of the Meetings of the Mersham with Sevington Parish Council on 18 <sup>th</sup> January and 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved as a true record and were signed as such. Cllr Murphy proposed approval and Cllr Wells seconded this.	
<b>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes that are not covered by the agenda.</b>	
The Church Noticeboard – no update has been provided as yet.	
The Caretakers winter list – ditches to be cleared, mud on the path on A20, A20 bus shelter, benches and laurel bush at the Churchyard. The Village Caretaker is to undertake some work on this. A paving stone and a drainage ditch are likely to be required to make the drain area more robust as far as the path is concerned. This is to be a discussion for the future.	
Cllr Murphy was to write something re: the swings at JPF.	GM
<b>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</b>	
The member of the public had nothing additional to raise.	
<b>To receive report from Borough Councillor</b>	
<b>Detailed report had been circulated, a copy can be found on the website:</b> <a href="http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/">http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/</a>	
Cllr Bartlett suggested that the reports are placed on the website.	TB
<b>To discuss further progress regarding Mersham Manor and the Tithe Barn development</b>	
At the January meeting, the Chairman asked the Parish Councillors to consider the second proposal as discussed with Mr Simmonds. Cllr Turley would like to be able to represent the Parish Council as a whole after the February meeting.	
One of the historical applications has been refused and another is to be decided shortly.	
Cllr Bartlett and Turley have a meeting with ABC scheduled for 25 <sup>th</sup> February. The applicant is looking to	PT

make the barn into a residential property.	
<p><b>To discuss the purchase of a new speed sign and suggested locations for this.</b></p> <p>Having removed the speed sign at the request of ABC/KCC. A new sign will cost approx. £7000 – one to be positioned at The Street, The Farriers and just past Quarry View on Bower Road. Decision needs to be made which we do in line with the next point.</p> <p>The Clerk has managed to find a purchaser for the speed sign and this £750 will go towards the new sign.</p> <p>The speed sign would be placed: near the entrance to Rectory Close, near Long Row (prior to bridge) and the other side of Quarry View. The functionality is to be checked but it is considered that it would advise of what speed vehicles are travelling.</p> <p>Cllr Turley proposed purchasing the speed sign, Cllr Murphy seconded this and all were in favour.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>The Clerk is to contact KCC re: purchasing a sign and to agree the location points of the sign.</p>	TB
<p><b>To revisit the Highways Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>There were meetings and discussions with Kent Highways – there were 3 main things, express concern about access to Sports Club – could add warning of pedestrian signage.</p> <p>Excessive speed issues – consider Village gateways where refreshing white dragons teeth, gateways, speed sign on the road could all be placed on the main entrances.</p> <p>To add a dropped kerb on the pavement opposite the Royal Oak.</p> <p>Some of the above need design and we would need to take something forward and would need to be specific.</p> <p>Cllr Fletcher is concerned about the new bridge in Flood Street, this is talking about widening and re-aligning. No drawings have yet been received. There is concern that this will mean that traffic will be able to enter at greater speed. It is considered that this a safety matter rather than a speed issue. Once the plans have been viewed, we might be able to obtain some signage at this point.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett wanted to be clear about the speed sign, there might not be an opportunity to use this for anything elsewhere and so should be used for the speed sign.</p> <p>Cllr Turley proposed installing the dropped kerb initially, the gateways could be reviewed at a later date (in the summer). Cllr Murphy seconded this, all were in favour.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p>The Clerk is to return to Kelly Garrett at Kent Highways regarding installing the dropped kerb.</p>	TB
<p><b>To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in High Field</b></p> <p>Cllr Bartlett reported that he had 2 conversations with the DfT, as part of the SDO there were conditions where the applicant has to produce a plan as to how they would improve the biodiversity of the site. This has to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March.</p> <p>The top soil has to be removed by 31<sup>st</sup> December. The removal of this requires a plan.</p> <p>The S106 agreement is with the Solicitors and this is setting a legal process as to how the conditions will be discharged. Ie, the new car park at Sevington Church to be completed by end of May and finance to the Diocese. Guidance needs to be agreed between ABC and Natural England regarding the Nutrient Neutrality run off. It is hoped that this will be dealt with in the Biodiversity plan.</p> <p>There is a need to commence 24-hour working on the site as buildings need to be constructed, letters are to go to nearby residents regarding this. There is a requirement for an additional building for checking animals on the DeFRA site – the consultation on this will end on 16<sup>th</sup> March (there are 3 weeks for this), the</p>	

<p>additional building increases the square footage of the site.</p> <p>It is hoped that we will see their Biodiversity plans but we should keep going with our views. Once the Secretary of State has approved this plan, it will be made available for the public. Nothing can be drawn from discussions with DfT but it is hoped that Kent Wildlife Trust and DfT plans can be aligned.</p> <p>It was suggested that as the soil stored on site may become a liability, it could be used as undulations in the land as long as the planting meets what we are after and there is no more liability. The DfT have to find a legal route to not carry out their commitment to remove the soil. Once the Biodiversity Report is produced, we will understand better the plans for the top soil. Top soil value deteriorates over time so it will depend on the biodiversity gain.</p> <p>DfT are happy to engage and find an amicable solution – they are not interested in any use of the site other than for a biodiversity gain.</p> <p>Cllr Murphy explained that the moving of the top soil is a concern to the local tax payers. Cllr Turley suggested that we ask Damian Green to discuss with Grant Schapps when we reach this point.</p> <p>KWT have been asked to progress with the plan. Cllr Bartlett explained that he met with Haroona and Kyle. ABC are supportive of the plans. DfT have their hands full with the addition of the new site in Dover. KWT will need access to the site and Cllr Bartlett is happy to facilitate this.</p>																			
<p><b>To receive an update regarding the position of the broadband project for Mersham</b></p> <p>OpenReach have gone to DCMS for approval of funding for the 2 projects. They would then proceed on to the building of the portal if approved by DCMS.</p> <p>A draft article has been submitted to The Villager. Cllr Wells is producing information for posting on the internet. Cllr Turley has produced a mail-drop. Cllr Stewart was asked to write up a lay-mans approach to the build.</p>	MW PT/KS																		
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="89 1294 1398 1865"> <tr> <td data-bbox="89 1294 365 1402"><u>16/01314/CONA/AS</u></td> <td data-bbox="365 1294 831 1402">Ivy Cottage, 5 Cranbrooks, Blind Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HB</td> <td data-bbox="831 1294 1398 1402">Discharge of conditions (retrospective)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="89 1402 1398 1444">The Parish Council had no comments.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="89 1444 365 1543">21/00149/AS</td> <td data-bbox="365 1444 831 1543">Summerfield, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PE</td> <td data-bbox="831 1444 1398 1543">Erection of a single storey side extension</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="89 1543 1398 1585">The Parish Council has no comment regarding this application.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="89 1585 365 1765"><u>21/00187/AS</u></td> <td data-bbox="365 1585 831 1765">Land between Orchard Cottage and Redburr, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Kent</td> <td data-bbox="831 1585 1398 1765">Outline Application (with all matters reserved except access and landscaping) for the erection of up to 4 detached dwellings, with provision of access to Kingsford Street and landscaping</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="89 1765 1398 1865">This application is outside of the village envelope and on this basis the Parish Council strongly opposes any development that is not within the village confines.</td> </tr> </table>	<u>16/01314/CONA/AS</u>	Ivy Cottage, 5 Cranbrooks, Blind Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HB	Discharge of conditions (retrospective)	The Parish Council had no comments.			21/00149/AS	Summerfield, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PE	Erection of a single storey side extension	The Parish Council has no comment regarding this application.			<u>21/00187/AS</u>	Land between Orchard Cottage and Redburr, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Kent	Outline Application (with all matters reserved except access and landscaping) for the erection of up to 4 detached dwellings, with provision of access to Kingsford Street and landscaping	This application is outside of the village envelope and on this basis the Parish Council strongly opposes any development that is not within the village confines.			TB  TB  TB
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<p><b>Financial matters:</b></p> <p>a. To note/authorise the following:</p> <p>i. To note the Parish Council’s Financial position <i>The Parish Council bank balance as at 31/01/2021 of £19205.31. There are 3 cheques outstanding.</i></p> <p>ii. To authorise any payments</p>																			

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
	Ian King – February salary	£ 118.31
	HMRC	£ 76.80
	T Block – January salary	£ 321.96

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

**Any Other Business (for information purposes only):**

CLlr Hawkins thanks the Clerk for reporting the K6 Kiosk to BT, it is understood that they will undertake some maintenance before Autumn.

CLlr Hawkins asked whether the Village Caretaker could spray the edges of the footpaths on the Millennium Green and at Cherry Glebe, CLlr Turley will ask Paul to add this to his jobs.

CLlr Murphy asked to be reminded of when the A20 is due to be resurfaced. This is due to take place once all J10a works are completed in the Spring of 2021.

CLlr Murphy explained that he and his wife are hoping to have a community Jerusalem dance routine (lessons on Zoom and live outside when restrictions allow) for as many of the community as would like to be involved. The dance will be filmed. A discussion is to be had regarding permission to use the Millennium Green and the Clerk will need to undertake a Risk Assessment ahead of the production.

CLlr Fletcher reported that Mrs Fletcher is undertaking a “30 cakes baked in 30 days” in aid of Macmillan Cancer. Anyone wishing to have a cake should make contact with Mrs Fletcher.

PT

GM/  
TB

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

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

All

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm**