

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council**  
**Meeting held in on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

<b>Present</b>	Gavin Murphy (Chair)	Geoffrey Fletcher
	Rob Hansen	Jan Oakley-Hills
	Kenton Stewart	Peter Turley

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

To be actioned by

<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies had been received from: Councillors Ken Botfield, Henrietta Sawdon and Lee Whitehead	
<b>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda</b> Cllr Fletcher declared an interest in the planning application at the Sports Club.	
<b>Minutes</b> of the Meeting on 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2018 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><i>Millennium Green Path – signage, road tape and path destruction</i> Cllr Turley had contacted the land owner who has confirmed ownership of this piece of land and has give permission for the works to be undertaken. Cllr Stewart will undertake the work.</p> <p>The signs were ordered and an invoice raised, once they arrive, the Clerk will get them to the Caretaker for fitting.</p> <p><i>Island on A20 for bus access</i> The Council decided to look at this again in 3-4 months.</p> <p><i>Defibrillator</i> The school had approached the Parish Council requesting financial support for a cabinet to house their defibrillator. The Parish Council agreed to send the School £250 towards this.</p> <p><i>JPF</i> Following the RoSPA report, the items highlighted will be discussed with Paul and a plan of action to take the necessary repairs forward will be agreed. It was noted that the Caretaker has been unable to source the necessary size of Marine grade Ply to repair the crocodile. It was suggested that trailer board might be a solution and some suppliers were suggested. In the meantime, the Crocodile might be removed for safety reasons.</p> <p><i>Bus shelter maintenance at the Frith.</i> The Clerk is to check that the bus shelter is being maintained by the Caretaker.</p>	<p>KS</p> <p>TB</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>PT</p> <p></p> <p>TB</p>
<p><b>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</b> A request had been received for a dropped kerb when exiting the church at Cherry Glebe as mobility scooters are finding it increasingly difficult to move round the paths. The Clerk will contact KCC to ask about this and obtain costs if the Council are not willing.</p> <p>From this came a suggestion that a questionnaire could be undertaken to discuss ascertain the desires of the parishioners. The Clerk is to ascertain costs via “survey monkey” before this is taken forward.</p> <p>It was considered that the development on Finberry is well built and designed and the area is very community minded.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>TB</p>

## Report from Borough Councillor

### Planning

Petworth – Jo Alexander is dealing with this. The deadline was 22<sup>nd</sup> August and a site visit to check that matters requiring action are complete is due to be undertaken.

*It was noted that there is now a caravan in Blind Lane that is being lived in.*

Bower Farm – the occupiers have been compliant with the notice served.

*It was questioned as to why KCC can't take the landmark away from Lancaster as they are a recurrent problem across the area.*

Colliers Hill – Lucy Holloway is investigating as a caravan is now on-site.

*Cllr Fletcher explained that there is local fury and irritation that the residents remain since the end of the notice period was March 2018.*

Cllr Bartlett explained that the case is in the hands of the Solicitor and the Council will need to launch a prosecution through the High Court. If the court judgement is then positive, the Police will have to act.

*Cllr Fletcher questioned the Planning inspector's decision and the reason as to why the Borough Council has not been able to remove the residents before now.*

Cllr Bartlett explained that the matter must be dealt with through the judiciary, the Council has to be sure it has acted lawfully as a person can only be removed from a property with a Court Order in place and the Borough Council has engaged lawyers and barristers to discuss and review the papers before the decision is taken to proceed to Court.

*Cllr Fletcher asked whether the Parish Council have an assurance that Ashford Borough Council will assess and if they have acted legally then the matter will go to Court?*

Cllr Bartlett explained that the Court process is lengthy and costly. The planning department are under-resourced. There are similar issues across the Borough.

*It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Planning Enforcement Officer and explain that we are confused by the different reasons as to why this was not dealt with already and ask what is their intended action and what time frame we are working to for a resolution, Cllr Fletcher will draft the letter. Once the response is received, a letter might be sent to Gerry Clarkson regarding what appears to be a deep-seated problem at the Council as they do not appear to be able to retain staff.*

Laws Lane – Officers are minded to refuse the application. This looks to be another situation rather like that on Colliers Hill.

### Finberry

The play area is now open.

It was suggested that Councillors could look at the new Community Centre at Repton Park – this is a fantastic centre and would be an ideal starting point for discussion regarding Finberry.

The link road to Bridgefield will remain closed, the Supermarket is no longer going in to Finberry as it is now going in to Waterbrook, although Finberry will have a convenience store.

J10a completion is due in 10/19, the footbridge will be installed in 11/18 and the M20 will shut at 20:00 on a Saturday and re-opened at 10:00 on a Sunday.

The A2070 contra-flow is due to swap sides in 11/18 and all contractors for the whole exercise will be off-site by 04/20.

The staff are on-site and the link from 10a to Bad Munstereifel Road needs to be agreed but Highways England and Friend's Life should be discussing traffic lights/roundabout etc but Friend's Life are not interested in engaging. They are, however, entirely responsible for access to Stour Park and it is likely to be more costly

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to them if they don't engage.

The traffic lights at Barrey Road are to be installed in 06/19.

It was noted that it seems easier to influence large developments than the very small ones.

#### Report from PCSO

No report had been received this month.

An email from Susan Wood had been received asking about the contact made from PCSOs and Community Warden. The Clerk will respond.

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#### Planning Matters:

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

<a href="#">18/00098/AS</a>	Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent	Hybrid planning application for mixed-use development comprising (1) Application for full planning permission for the construction and operation of a 600-space truck stop; a 2,612sqm GIA service building providing 1,734sqm GIA of ancillary truck stop service facilities and 878sqm GIA of B1 offices; buildings providing 6,308sqm GIA of class B1, B2 and B8 floorspace for small and medium enterprises; associated access, parking and landscaping, including highway infrastructure works to Waterbrook Avenue and (2) Application for outline planning permission (with all matters reserved) for 8.9ha of employment uses comprising uses falling within use classes B1, B2 and B8, a class A1 superstore of up to 2323sqm, drive-through restaurants (use classes A3/A5), a petrol filling station and ancillary convenience store, and car showrooms (sui generis); and up to 400 residential dwellings, with class A1 neighbourhood retail uses, associated drainage, parking, landscaping and infrastructure
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The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application.

<a href="#">18/00464/CONA/AS</a>	DVSA, Waterbrook Park, Clover Road, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0TX	Discharge condition 11
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No comment

<a href="#">18/01016/AS</a>	Land north of Fairlawn, Blind Lane, Mersham, Kent	Formation of new access, erection of 4 two-storey houses and 3 bungalows, extension of Mountbatten Hall and car park
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The Parish Council supports this application and is pleased that the developers have actively engaged with the Parish Council and have sought to improve the village.

<a href="#">18/01133/AS</a>	42 Church Road, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0LE	Rear dormer, front rooflights to facilitate loft conversion
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The Parish Council raises no objection to this application but respectfully requests that the officer takes into consider the comments raised by any neighbours.

<a href="#">18/01097/AS</a>	The Greens Business Centre, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent	Outline application to consider access for the erection of one dwelling and garage		
The Parish Council objects to this application, this is viewed as a satellite development that is outside the built envelope and undermines the separation of the village. It also makes no contribution to the village infrastructure/resources and these are already over-stretched.				
<a href="#">18/01159/AS</a>	The Hay Loft, Laws Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HG	Conversion of redundant agricultural building to residential dwelling (retrospective)		
The Parish Council objects to this application, this is viewed as a satellite development that is outside the built envelope and undermines the separation of the village. It also makes no contribution to the village infrastructure/resources and these are already over-stretched.				
<a href="#">16/01667/COND/AS</a>	Tavis House Business Centre, 3 Hall Avenue, Orbital Park, Sevington	Discharge of condition 18		
No comment				
<a href="#">18/01175/AS</a>	Little Barn, Red Barn Farm, Laws Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HG	Conversion of redundant agricultural building to residential dwelling plus erection of detached outbuilding (retrospective)		
The Parish Council objects to this application, this is viewed as a satellite development that is outside the built envelope and undermines the separation of the village. It also makes no contribution to the village infrastructure/resources and these are already over-stretched.				
<a href="#">18/01184/AS</a>	Jasmine Cottage, 7 Flanders Field, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PA	Construction of porch to front elevation		
The Parish Council raises no objection to this application but respectfully requests that the officer takes into consider the comments raised by any neighbours.				
<a href="#">18/01195/AS</a>	94 Church Road, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0LF	Proposed conservatory to the rear elevation		
As conservatories do not usually require planning permission, the Council were interested to know the reason behind permission being required. The Parish Council felt that the scale of this might concern and would hope that this would not adversely affect the neighbours, therefore, the Parish Council raises no objection but respectfully requests that the officer takes into consideration the comments raised by the neighbours.				
<a href="#">11/00473/CONX/AS</a>	Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent	Discharge of condition 7 - Foul and Surface Water Drainage (Green Street and The Grove at Captain's Wood Phases)		
No comment				
<a href="#">11/00473/CONY/AS</a>	Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent	Discharge of condition 40 - Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM (Green Street, The Grove and Village Centre Phases)		

No comment		
<a href="#">14/01075/CONB/AS</a>	Land Parcel The Grove at Captains Wood, Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent	Discharge of conditions: 2, 8, 11, 16, 17, 18 & 19
No comment		
<a href="#">18/01244/AS</a>	Keston, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HR	Two storey extension with front rear dormers and rooflights and front porch.
The Parish Council raises no objection to this application but respectfully requests that the officer takes into consider the comments raised by any neighbours. It is hoped that this would not adversely affect the neighbours		
<a href="#">17/01078/CONA/AS</a>	<a href="#">Annexe at, Mersham Manor, Church Close, Mersham, Kent</a>	Discharge of condition 3(i) - Archaeological WSI and timetable
No comment		
<a href="#">18/01302/AS</a>	Mersham Sports Ground Stone Green, Flood Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7DE	Proposed clubhouse with parking and bin storage
The Parish Council has always supported the Sports Club and believe a new Club house is richly deserved, the village is, however, already very well served for venues for large parties/weddings and the Parish Council is concerned that a change of use to include additional requirement such as extra licensing will cause a negative impact on residents in the area and also in direct competition with the community pub, The Farriers Arms and the Village Hall. The Parish Council supports the application but only on the understanding that the current hours are limited to up to 3 hours after a sports event. The Parish Council would object to any licensing changes.		
<a href="#">18/01298/AS</a>	2 Bower Cottages, The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NG	Provision of off-road parking
The Parish Council raises no objection to this application but respectfully requests that the officer takes into consider the comments raised by any neighbours.		
<a href="#">17/01078/CONB/AS</a>	<a href="#">Annexe at, Mersham Manor, Church Close, Mersham, Kent</a>	Discharge of condition 3(i) - Archaeological WSI and timetable
No comment		

#### Financial Matters

- a. To note/authorise the following:
- i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position  
*The Parish Council bank balance as at 31/08/2018 was £26,298.77.*
- ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501878	Currys PC World – laptop	£ 301.73
501879	Playsafely Ltd – RoSPA inspection	£ 105.00
5018880	Signs for footpath	£ 81.26

501881	Mr T Saint – Sevington litterpicker	£ 116.13
501882	Mr I King – Mersham litterpicker	£ 93.60
501883	HMRC	£ 3.20
501884	Mrs T Block – Clerks salary	£ 443.83
501885	Mersham Primary School	£ 250.00

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

The caretaker expenses were underpaid in 2017/18 so an additional amount needs to be paid and depreciation had not been added in.

The Clerk was asked to request a current Financial Statement on the Caretaker finances at this time so that the increase to Mersham with Sevington PC can be validated and also to provide some idea as to how the money is being spent against the budget.

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**To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment**

There were no changes to be made to the Risk Assessment. The beacon in Sevington is to be added. It is already added to the insurance.

**Any Other Business**

The Clerk has secured the soldier silhouettes for Mersham and so some plans for the event need to be made. A sub-committee was formed to organise this and will meet on 26/9 to begin planning. The exact timings required are:

18.55 – The Last Post

19.00 – Beacon lighting (silhouettes present)

19.05 – Bell ring – The Nation rings

The Sevington beacon license was signed and it was noted that organisation of the maintenance of the beacon and noticeboard is required.

**Date of the next meeting:**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**