

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

Present	Jan Oakley-Hills (Chair)	Ken Botfield
	Geoffrey Fletcher	Rob Hansen
	Henrietta Sawdon	Kenton Stewart
	Peter Turley	

In attendance: Cllr Paul Bartlett, Cllr Gerald White, Tracey Block (Clerk) and 8 members of the public

To be actioned by

Apologies for Absence Apologies had been received from: Councillors Gavin Murphy and Lee Whitehead.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda Cllr Fletcher declared a personal interest in the Sports Club when this was discussed.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 18 th February 2019 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p><i>Millennium Green Path –road tape</i> Cllr Stewart will undertake the work.</p> <p><i>Meeting with Ashford Borough Council</i> Cllrs Murphy and Turley will be attending a meeting with Ashford Borough Council on 26th March. The items to be discussed are: Bower Farm – The application was approved despite objections and without following policies. Hanover Mill Mast – The suggested relocation of the mast is an unsuitable location and suggest that this is not permitted development. Court Lodge Barn – This has been allowed to continually degrade and all of the applications are pending, it is considered that the Borough Council may be blocking progress. Infrastructure Contributions – Ashford Borough Council state that the number of houses must exceed 10 if any contribution is to be made, however, the Government states that payments can be made on smaller developments.</p> <p>Cllr Turley is to share the list and amend as necessary before sending it to the Borough Council ahead of the meeting. Cllr Bartlett suggested adding Red Barn as consent was given for a conversion for a new house on a bigger footprint and this is against policy. This was also not taken to Committee despite Cllr Bartlett requesting this. Cllrs Fletcher and Bartlett are to forward the information they hold to Cllr Turley.</p> <p>It was questioned as to whether the matter of enforcements would be discussed. Cllr Turley felt that this was probably not possible and a similar meeting would be needed to deal with the different enforcement issues in the Parish.</p> <p><i>Batteries for the Speed sign</i> The Clerk had contacted the Bilsington Clerk who had sent an email that said, “The Bilsington sign is not solar powered it is battery powered.” Cllrs Turley and Murphy will discuss and look into alternatives. The Clerk had also asked KCC about the potential to supply electricity to the sign, their response read, “I’ve spoken to our streetlighting department and the official stance is that they do not allow connections to streetlights.”</p>	<p>KS</p> <p>GM/PT</p>
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</p> <p>The members of the public asked what they could do to help the Parish Council with regard to the mast. Cllr Turley explained that Harlequin have said that they are looking at alternative sites. It was questioned as to whether they should, in fact, be looking at existing sites as legislation suggests that the masts should be shared among providers.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the mast should not be close to Listed Buildings but this suggested site at</p>	

<p>Hanover Mill is close to 4 listed buildings. Cllr Bartlett thought that Ashford Borough Council would have the power to say that this is not permitted development and therefore Harlequin would have to go through the planning application process where it would be called in to planning committee which would delay the mast significantly. Cllr Bartlett is to write to Harlequin to explain that the case.</p> <p>It was stated that the original application for Bower Farm said that the mast should be demolished as it would have an adverse effect on neighbouring properties, this would surely mean that the mast should be located in a different place where it will not have an adverse on other properties. Cllr Bartlett explained that the condition of planning shows that there is no desire to have the mast near a cluster of houses. Cllr Bartlett recommended that all of the residents communicate with Harlequin object to the proposed Hanover Mill site. If all objections can be forwarded to Cllr Turley, they can be used in conjunction with other responses when discussing the matter with Ashford Borough Council.</p>	
<p>Report from Borough Councillor</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett reported that he had received no update from Highways England regarding the lorry parks. A freedom of Information request had been submitted by KCC.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett has requested that Crest Nicholson put the bus stop in on Finberry as the bus service is being considered.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett has been communicating with Mr Jarvis at the Borough Council with regard to the enforcement actions required.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett noted that the application at cherry Glebe had been refused and that the application at Red Barn was in hand.</p> <p>Cllr White reported that there are now a second set of pigs in Sevington and the fencing on the site is insufficient to contain the pigs. There is rubbish on site and this has been reported as well as Environmental Health called to check on the situation. The pigs are there with the land owners permission. There has been thousands of pounds worth of damage caused and Cllr White has suggested that residents take civil action against the owner of the pigs. The land owner is thought to be hoping for planning permission for houses but access is a problem to the site.</p> <p>Pot holes are an issue in the Sevington North/Willesborough area.</p> <p>There have been a number of complaints of people being overlooked from the new roundabout at J10a because the roundabout is raised considerably. It is hoped there will be some landscaping/screening undertaken. The matter will be taken to the Joint Transportation Board Meeting in June.</p> <p>Cllr White has been asked how often the beacon will be lit. He has suggested on special occasions and maybe annually on the anniversary of its installation.</p> <p>The Barriers are not being shut off at night at the retail Park, Cllr White has written to the management company of the park.</p> <p>Residents have been requesting a Community Hub but there is nowhere to put one and there will be one on Finberry which could be used.</p> <p>Play park is progressing, it may not be ready until early August but there is a review meeting to be had and it is hoped that this can be pushed forward. Cllr White is hoping to apply for a grant for the play park.</p> <p>There will be a litter pick on 30th March and all are welcome to attend.</p>	
<p>Report from PCSO</p> <p>PCSO Matthew Morgan, who covers both Mersham and Sevington had sent a communication much earlier in the month. These will be circulated where possible.</p>	

Planning Matters:

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

19/00254/AS	Gains Cottage, Quarrington Lane, Brabourne, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5NG	Change rear window for door, change crittal window in kitchen to timber casement with double glazed units, install en-suite shower room and install three tall clay chimney pots to existing chimney.
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application.		
19/00220/AS	9 The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NA	Installation of 3 CCTV cameras and associated cabling
The Parish Council supports this application		
19/00253/AS	9 The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NA	Installation of 3 CCTV cameras and associated cabling
The Parish Council supports this application		
07/01579/CONB/AS	Site M South Section Orbital Park, Monument Way, Sevington	Part discharge of condition 19
The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application		
18/00680/CONA/AS	L Artisan du Chocolat, Site G, The Long Barrow, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0GP	Discharge of conditions 8 & 10
The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application		
16/00124/CONA/AS	Bilham Lawn Parcel B9, Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth	Discharge of conditions 5, 8, 9 & 10
The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application.		
17/01690/CONB	Mercedes Benz of Ashford, Monument Way, Sevington TN24 0HB	Discharge of condition 3
The Parish Council has no comments to make on this application.		
11/00473/CONZ	Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth	Discharge of conditions 7, 15, 45 (Bilham Lawn Phase)
The units on this application are smaller than was originally envisaged. Is the mix of properties as originally expected? The Parish Council remains hopeful that there are no plans to tarmac the bridle path and suggest that the emergency exit has a bollard that is operated by a transponder.		

19/00329	The Hay Barn, Broad Oak Farm, Mersham, Ashford Kent TN25 7HR	Erection of a Timber out-building and the change of use from agricultural to garden land
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application.		
19/00333	The Granary, Broad Oak Farm, Mersham, Ashford Kent TN25 7HR	Change of use from agricultural to garden land
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application.		

Financial Matters

- a. To note/authorise the following:
- i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position
The Parish Council bank balance as at 28/02/2019 was £27,993.52 with unrepresented cheques valued at £228.53.
- ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501913	Mr T Saint – Sevington litterpicker	£ 116.13
501914	Mr I King – Mersham litterpicker	£ 93.60
501915	Mrs T Block – Clerks salary	£ 444.83
501916	HMRC	£ 3.20
501917	Chamber of Commerce	£ 30.00
501918	Mersham Village Fete	£ 250.00
501919	Mersham Sports Club	£15,000.00

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

There was some discussion about the giving of the Sports Club money. The Sports Club need to show receipt of some funds to enable them to progress their funding applications. Cllr Botfield did not agree that the funds should be released in full. Following a further debate, a proposal was tabled by Cllr Turley that the Parish Council should pay £15,000 to the Sports Club now on the understanding that if the money is not used within 2 years then it must be returned. The further £5,000 would be paid at a later date.

This was put to the vote and there were 6 for and 1 against this proposal. The payment was, therefore, made. Cllr Turley is also to chase up the documentary evidence of the location from where the Club users live.

It was then agreed that the Parish Council would contribute up to £1,000 towards the Natural planting event hat Amanda Scott has proposed.

S106 money

Following the receipt of a planning application, Ashford Borough Council have contacted the Parish Council asking for suggestions of where the funds could be spent in order that an agreement can be drawn up to be submitted alongside the application. These funds are not going to be available immediately (potentially 18 months – 2 years). Cllr Bartlett explained the dangers that might occur if the spending is not allocated adequately. The Borough Council have suggested the JPF and the Sports Club for spending opportunities. There was a further discussion about where this money should be spent. The building works are situated within the Mersham boundary.

It was suggested that a shopping list should be drawn up so that the needs can be addressed.

<p>Elections 2019 The decision of 6 Councillors for Sevington, 3 for Mersham and 1 for Highfield (formerly Sevington North) has to be revoked before 21st March, Cllr Turley is to make a phone call on 19th March to chase this again. Cllr Turley is to request that there is an agreement of a 5/5 split which would allow for equal numbers of Councillors in preparation of the dividing of the Council with immediate effect.</p>	PT
<p>Enforcement Issues There had been no progress on any of the issues, although the caravan in Blind Lane has now been replaced with a shed.</p>	
<p>Finberry Working Committee Nothing has yet been organised.</p>	
<p>Sevington North The Sevington Sizzle is to be held on 10th August 2019.</p>	
<p>Cheesemans Green Lane Traffic issues This lane requires some form of speed reduction, it was suggested that the Clerk contact Cllr Bell but, then decided that it might be better to contact Paul O’Leary at Kent Highways to discuss the options for this lane. It is impossible for anyone to walk/cycle safely on this lane anymore because of the increase in traffic and the speeds at which they travel. The roads are used by farm vehicles so any traffic calming measures would be impossible. The Clerk will discuss the matter with Paul O’Leary at KCC.</p>	TB
<p>To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment The Clerk is to re-visit the Risk Assessment for beacon lighting for Mersham.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business The owner of the land by the shop has been in touch with Cllr Fletcher with some concerns at the level of clearing of the brambles. Cllr Fletcher had apologised and offered to replace the trees that were cut down. She has concerns over people parking on this plot of land and so Cllr Fletcher suggested she took some legal advice.</p> <p>The Clerk had requested to attend a training course – this was agreed.</p> <p>All grants are on hold with ABC for the time-being but once elections are over they will be under-way. The Clerk has this in hand.</p> <p>The trees that were severely cut back on the Millennium Green are sprouting.</p> <p>A Tree Warden is required for the parish, the Parish Council makes no contribution at present and there are plenty of opportunities for tree wardens to undertake training. The Clerk will look at the contribution costs.</p>	TB TB
<p>Date of the next meeting: Monday 15th April 2019 Monday 20th May 2019</p>	
<p>The meeting closed at 8.30pm</p>	