

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in
the Church Room, St John The Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 16th May 2016**

Present	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair)	Rob Hansen
	Colin Kibble	Gavin Murphy
	Kenton Stewart	Peter Turley

In attendance: Graham Kingston (Community warden), Cllr Bartlett, Cllr White, 7 members of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Oakley – Hills, Sawdon, Smithers and Whitehead. PCSO Dan Smith had also sent apologies for his absence.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 18 th April 2016 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered by the items on the Agenda.	
Election of the Chairman and any Vice-Chairman for the Council year 2016-2017 Cllr Murphy proposed Cllr Fletched be re-elected as Chairman, Cllr Hansen seconded this. Cllr Murphy proposed Cllr Turley be re-elected as Vice-Chairman, Cllr Stewart seconded this. All were in favour.	
Completion of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form by the Chairman Cllr Fletcher completed and signed the declaration of acceptance of office form.	
Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. The 7 members of the public who attended the meeting were at the meeting to discuss Petworth. Cllr Fletcher explained that an inspection had been undertaken by the Environment Agency on 5 th May. There are 3 bodies involved in this: Environment Agency (who deal with items being buried), Planning Enforcement (who deal with a breach of planning permission, i.e. living in caravans) and the Environmental Department of Ashford Borough Council (who deal with smoke issues). Any complaints re: smoke from burning items should be fed back through epcomplaints@ashford.gov.uk . Following the inspection on 5 th May, a Court Order Notice will be served on Mr Latter (the land owner) to remove the top soil and anything that may be buried underneath it. It was noted that mattresses and 3 piece suites are being burned. One of the members of public had received a direct threat from Mr Latter junior. Any issues regarding this site must be reported so that there is a gathering of enough evidence. Cllr Fletcher is to collate all of the photographs that have been taken of the site. An alternative entrance which had permission was created but the old entrance never closed off so the property has 2 entrances. Cllr Bartlett will look into this with the planning enforcement team. The public also wished to draw the Council's attention to the abuse of footpaths. Walkers will not stick to paths and won't keep their dogs on leads, signs are destroyed. This is not just on footpaths but on walkways too. It was agreed that the Council would put an article in The Village about this and also, speak to Colin the Dog Warden for advice.	

<p>The public were thanked for their attendance.</p>	
<p>To Receive reports from the Borough Councillors</p> <p>Gerald White reported that the Barrey road Junction is high on his list of improvements required. There has been a re-shuffle and Gerald has been given the Leisure brief (which includes the Stour Centre as well Julie Rose etc) The Elwick Place development looks set to go ahead with a new cinema. The model railway centre is to be discussed on Thursday.</p> <p>Paul Bartlett reported that he will be attending the Planning Meeting on Wednesday and will be speaking against the planning application for Development to provide an employment led mixed use scheme, to include site clearance, the alteration of highways, engineering works and construction of new buildings and structures of up to 157,616 sq m comprising: up to 140,000 sq/m Class B8 (storage and distribution) use; up to 23,500 sq m B1a/B1c Business (of which a maximum of 20,000 sq m of B1a); up to 15,000 sq. m B2 (general industry); up to 250 sq m of A1 (retail shops) and 5,500 sq m of sui generis to accommodate Kent Wool Growers together with ancillary and associated development including utilities and transport infrastructure, car parking and landscaping. Paul explained that the officers have drawn up over 170 reasons why the application should go ahead but there are some issues that need to be ironed out, KCC are not convinced that the building should go ahead when in such close proximity to the church. There are going to be parking problems and there is still the air quality issue that needs to be resolved. The developer has offered a planning contribution of £186,000 for a community facility. This will be given to the Diocese but there are concerns about this being spent on St Mary’s Church Sevington rather than being swallowed up on other expenditure. Cllr Bartlett also has concerns over Church Road being a repetition of Barrey Road. There are still some drainage issues.</p> <p>Cllr Fletcher will speak as a representative of the Parish Council and the Village Alliance will also be in attendance. The proposed development is on a very high point but there are plans to block off the end of Kingsford Street. Landscaping also needs to be in the development area and landscaping providing a barrier for noise and visibility. The 2 units that will be 16m high are near the Church and this is at the same height as the spire. It has been suggested that this is not acceptable.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett also recommended that the Parish Council contact Simon Cole and request a private briefing as Kingsnorth PC have had one, Mersham were promised a private briefing in August 2015. The WE15 papers will go before cabinet in June 2016 and the public can find out about this from early June.</p>	
<p>Report from Community Warden</p> <p>There has been an incident of damage in Church Road, 2 windows were broken. This incident is not right and it is thought that a homeless Lithuanian might be responsible. This gentleman is living in the woods near the Primary School.</p> <p>A car had been dumped on the track at the back of Glebelands, this has now been removed.</p> <p>Fly tipping on Bower Road has been an issue.</p> <p>PCSO Dan Smith sent the following report: “There have been the following crimes of note in the area-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Theft of Pedal Cycle from new Finberry Estate- No offenders caught, pedal cycle owners are reminded to secure their pedal cycles with a good quality lock and preferably keep them stored inside out of the eye. • 1 x Criminal Damage, Mersham, Window smashed by believed catapult damage, No offenders caught and believed isolated incident. Any persons seen walking around the area with catapults please report to the Police via 101. <p>There have been the following ASB of note calls in the area- No ASB calls of note to report”</p>	
<p>Planning Matters:</p> <p>A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:</p> <p>Reference: 16/00557/AS</p>	

Address: Chequer Tree Barn, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HL
Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to separate dwelling and associated operational development

No objections raised

Reference: [16/00600/AS](#)

Address: Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent
Proposal: Temporary use of the site as a High Output Operating Base, including the storage and loading onto train of track ballast, maintenance activities and erection of temporary accommodation

No objections raised

Reference: [16/00614/AS](#)

Address: Ashford Retail Park, Barrey Road, Sevington
Proposal: Part retrospective application to display 2No. high level internally illuminated fascia signs and 3No. non illuminated glazing graphics to front of retail unit.

No objections raised

Reference: [16/00616/AS](#)

Address: Imber, Cheesemans Green Lane, Sevington, Ashford, Kent,
Proposal: Erection of flag pole

No objections raised

Reference : [16/00630/AS](#)

Address: Unit 2B, Ashford Business Park, Barrey Road, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0SG
Proposal: 1 no. part illuminated flexface sign 1 no. non-illuminated aluminium tray (retrospective)

No objections raised

Financial Matters

To approve the following financial documents:

i. Internal Audit Annual Review – to receive the report from the Internal Auditor.

The Internal Audit report had been circulated. There were no issues raised by the Internal Auditor.

ii. To note/authorise the following:

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £26,363.53

To note receipt of 50% of the Concurrent Function Grant and of the Precept from ABC

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

The following payments were authorised:

Cheque	Payee's Name	Reason for Payment	Amount	Notes
501730	Kevin Funnell	Internal Audit Fee	£ 50.00	
501731	I King	Litter picking	£ 83.85	
501732	Post Office	HMRC Payment	£ 98.80	
501733	T Block	Salary	£ 384.81	
501734	ACRK	Annual Membership	£ 50.00	
501735	Came & Co.	Annual Insurance	£ 473.30	

To review Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and the Risk Assessment, and confirm arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks

The Parish Council considered the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Risk Assessment and agreed that there were no changes to be made at present.

Any Other Business	
<p>There is a small area that the Caretaker does not seem to be undertaking. This includes the area near the sign in blind Lane and the small area on Church Road.</p>	GF
<p>The Clerk had circulated the Cut and Cover History.</p>	
<p>The Clerk was asked to contact Nobby Southern with regard to excessive waste at the Village Hall meaning an influx of rats. The Clerk is to make contact with Nobby Southern to resolve the issue.</p>	TB
<p>Cllr Kibble is pleased to be back. The Council are pleased to see him back.</p>	
<p>The bench at Broadoak has been installed.</p>	
<p>The Council are to consider the names for the Bower Road development. The Clerk was asked to confirm details with English Rural Housing to refresh our memories as to how people register for these homes. It was agreed that something would be placed in the Villager with regard to this.</p>	TB
<p>It was agreed that the roses the Brownies had offered could be planted by the Flag pole at the entrance to Rectory Close. The Parish Council agreed that a sign could be sponsored to commemorate the roses being planted. Cllr Murphy will discuss this with the Brownie leader.</p>	TB GM
<p>It is hoped that Richard Alderton will be available but if not the APM will be on a different day. A leaflet will be produced to advertise the APM, note the dog mess and remind people about registering for the homes at the Bower Road development site.</p>	GF TB
<p>With regard to the development meeting on Wednesday evening the Parish Councillors were concerned about the welfare of those with houses in Church Road who will be so badly affected and wondered whether they had been offered a buy out option.</p>	
<p>The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 20th June 2016, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 10th June, please.</p>	All
<p>There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.05 PM.</p>	