

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 20th October 2025 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present:	Gavin Murphy (Chair)	Peter Hawkins
	Gill McBarnet	Donna Pearson
	Stewart Ross	Melanie Wells

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

To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Stewart.

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.

Cllr Wells noted a personal interest in the Inland Border facility as a family member works on the site and a personal interest in the Village Hall.

Cllr Murphy declared a pecuniary interest as his Company supplies wine to Mersham Stores.

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 15th September 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 15th September 2025 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.

To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.

The Clerk had researched the High-visibility vests for the litterpicker. It was agreed that 8 should be purchased, Mersham Parish Council will be printed on the back.

Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item

There were no public in attendance.

To receive report from County/Borough Councillor

Borough Councillor

A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website:

<https://www.mershamparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/>

- The Borough Council has discussed extending weekend planning enforcement, the cost implications are to be worked out before it is decided as to whether they will take this forward.
- The Reg 18 consultation closed on 13th October, the results of this will be discussed at the Council meeting on 29th October.
- Cllr Bartlett still has £680 left in the Community fund pot. The Village Hall will submit an application for this.
- The PINS notification regarding the IBF has been received. The PC need to submit a request to be represented, Cllr Bartlett has sent his request.
- Cllr Bartlett will be attending the Highways seminar on 22nd October in Maidstone.

Chairman's comments:

i. Parking next to the shop – There had been a comment received regarding the parking on the land outside the shop. This land is privately owned and it's management is outside of the remit of the Parish Council.

ii. Village Summer Fete or event - Cllr Murphy had been approached about the possibility of a Fete being organised. Cllr Wells has been told that the Sports Club intend to organise a Fete in 2026.

iii. No Parking signs on gates – A landowner with a dropped kerb has been approaching people who park in front of the dropped kerb. It was agreed that an article will be put in The Villager advising people to avoid parking in front of dropped kerbs and parking on pavements.

iv. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Murphy has noticed that other Councils have a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Murphy will undertake further investigation and report back to the meeting in November. There was concern about managing expectation.

v. Succession Planning – There is 18 months of this term left to run so succession planning is required.

Local Plan update

Nothing further to discuss.

To receive any update on the following:

1. To receive any updates on the following:

i) Highways and Transport matters (to include the Highways Improvement Plan)

There was nothing to discuss at the meeting.

ii) Village Amenities and infrastructure(to include The Village Hall)

Cllr Wells had circulated a report.

iii) Environment and Sustainability (to include The green buffer zone in High Field/IBF).

There was nothing to discuss at the meeting.

iv) Finance & Governance:

(1) To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 30th September 2025.

The Council noted a bank balance of £47,027.67 as at 30th September 2025.

(2) To authorise any payments

Payments were authorised as follows:

Litterpicker	£162.50
HMRC	£79.80
Clerk	£336.79
JRB Enterprise	£69.90

It was agreed that a Christmas tree and some lights would be purchased, a budget of £200 for each was approved.

v) Community Engagement

There was nothing to discuss at the meeting.

vi) Housing and Development

There was nothing to discuss at the meeting

vii) Local Government Reorganisation

There was no update at present.

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

There were no planning applications outstanding.

Any Other Business

It was noted that the hedge on the entrance to Old Rectory Close, if turning right needs to be cut back, the Clerk will contact the Estate Management company.

The footpath through Old Rectory Close has been cleared by a resident, this should have been reported to Kent Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

The Clerk offered to regularly contact the gentleman that we are talking to about the Cut and Cover to try and press the issue.

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

Monday 17th November 2025

Monday 16th February 2026

Monday 20th April 2026

Monday 19th January 2026 (G McB absent)

Monday 16th March 2026

Monday 18th May 2026