

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church**

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

In attendance: 3 members of the public, Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

*To be actioned by:*

<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence.</b>          Apologies had been received from Cllr Turley who was not feeling well.</p>	
<p><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 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 Stewart declared an interest in planning application: 21/02190/AS</p>	
<p><b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>          Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.</p>	
<p><b>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.</b>          There were no matters arising to discuss.</p>	
<p><b>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</b>          Two members of the public had attended to speak on the outcome of an application in Kingsford Street. One member of the public started the discussions by asking the Chairman how the Parish Council felt, Councillor Fletcher explained that everyone was disappointed with the outcome and although he did not attend the meeting, as the meeting had been so long, he would have left prior to the discussion starting.          The member of the public note that there were 16 Councillors on the planning committee but six had left by the time discussions were held regarding this application. Councillor Fletcher explained that the decision of the planning committee is binding and the parish council is not able to challenge this decision.          The members of the public felt that the whole meeting was poor communication was inadequate prior to the meeting and the planning officer gave untrue statements. It was perceived that proper representation was not made on behalf of merchant the development at Wye was well debated prior to the Mersham application being discussed and it would appear that this development was dismissed.          Councillor Bartlett explained that the quality of the meeting was average and generally not all papers are read, this is a longstanding issue, all members of the planning committee are elected members. The best defence that could be used are the conditions being the Stodmarsh issue, run off and the covenant.          Concern was expressed that this has now set a precedent, it has breached the village confines so similar applications could well come forward.</p>	
<p><b>To receive report from Borough Councillor</b>  <b>A 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>          Councillor Bartlett introduced the Land Mapping Commission explaining that Ashford Borough Council (ABC) has to build 1000 new houses every year. Currently ABC has only been providing 800 houses hence the change off approach. The Land Mapping Commission will complete the survey that they are undertaking by the end of the year and Parish Councils will be contacted to identify sites upon which housing could be built.          It is expected therefore that Conscience Farm and Ashford Great Park are likely to be resurrected by the church commissioners, the Parish Council needs to be active in this process. Councillor Bartlett expects the Land Mapping Commission plan to be divisive.          A member of the public expressed concern regarding the infrastructure for all of these new houses.</p>	
<p><b>To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield</b>          The public consultation is awaited, Councillor Bartlett had received communication that said it was expected in Jan/Feb this year.</p>	

<p><b>To discuss the current situation at the inland Border facility</b>  Cllr Bartlett had received a letter in which there was an invitation to send in a request for more signage, the Parish Council is to request additional signage on the Motorway.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett explained that any errant lorries should be reported to the HMRC email address, a copy sent to Cllr Bartlett too.</p> <p>There is to be an on-line meeting on 3/2 at 2pm. Cllrs Fletcher, Ross and Bartlett are invited to attend.</p>			GF
<p><b>To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan)</b>  The Highways meeting had been successful and Cllr Turley is due to meet a member of highways on site to assess the area. Agreement has been reached to move the 30mph speed limit to the outer side of Quarry View, to install gateways and road markings and enhance the gateways at all sites.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed that these projects could be taken forward at the discretion of the HIP sub-committee team.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to chase Neill Coppin regarding the bridge design.</p>			TB
<p><b>To receive an update on the Broadband project for the Aldington exchange in Mersham.</b></p> <p>Cllr Fletcher provided an update. There are still a number of residents that have not signed up yet. Another Zoom meeting was proposed to follow this up.</p>			GF/PT/ KS
<p><b>To receive an update regarding the Village Hall</b>  Cllr Wells provided an update on the Village Hall following the recent committee meeting, a copy of which will be kept on file.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett offered the remaining Grant to the Village Hall Committee.  A member of the public suggested that the Village Hall should check whether they need a legionella risk assessment,</p>			
<p><b>To discuss the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the beacon would be lit on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9.45pm. The Clerk is to register the beacon and also to ensure that a Risk Assessment has been undertaken.</p> <p>Cllr Wells is to report back to the February meeting as to whether there are plans to hold a Village Picnic and if the Parish Council should be involved in a sub-committee.</p> <p>7 trees are offered, one for each decade of the Queen's reign, it was suggested that these could be planted on High Field.</p>			TB  MW
<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>The Planning Applications requiring a response were:</p>			
18/00976/CONA/AS	Bower Farm, Bower Road, Mersham, TN25 6NW	Discharge of conditions 2 (materials), 3 (sectional details), 4 (finish of flues and vents), 6 (materials for parking), 8 (construction management plan), 11 (archaeological field evaluation), 12 (public right of way), 13 (contamination, 16 (lighting design for biodiversity), 17 (enhancements of biodiversity), 18 (bat scoping survey), 19 (details of walls and fences) and 20 (landscaping scheme).	
<p><b>The Parish Council raised no objection to this application</b></p>			
21/02049/AS	Agricultural Barn, Bank Road, Mersham	Change of use and conversion of existing poultry shed to provide 75 self-storage units (use class B8)	
<p><b>The Parish Council raised no objection to this application</b></p>			
21/02170/AS	Magpies, Bower Road, Mersham, TN25 6NW	Demolition of outbuildings and erection of a single storey annexe and single garage	
<p><b>The Parish Council raised no objection to this application</b></p>			
21/02190/AS and	6 Long Row, Flood Street, Mersham,	Single storey rear extension	

21/02191/AS	TN25 7HD														
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application															
18/01016/CONC/AS	Land north of Fairlawn, Blind Lane, Mersham	Discharge of conditions 12 (bicycle storage), 15 and 16 (updated bat emergence survey), 26 (footpath materials) and 29 (walls/fences)													
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application															
<b>Financial matters:</b>  <b>a) To note the Parish Council's financial position.</b>  The financial position was noted as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021  <b>b) To authorise any payments</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque No:</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>502159</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£ 29.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502160</td> <td>I King (January salary)</td> <td>£ 124.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502161</td> <td>T Block (January salary)</td> <td>£ 398.86</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.</p>				Cheque No:	Payee	Amount	502159	HMRC	£ 29.20	502160	I King (January salary)	£ 124.14	502161	T Block (January salary)	£ 398.86
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<b>Any Other Business (for information purposes only):</b>  There are trees highlighted by the Arborial report – The Clerk is to obtain quotations for the tree on the JPF that is too large for the Village Caretaker to undertake. One quote has been received for £750.00.  Kent Highways are undertaking repairs following damage to Kingsford Street caused by HGVs. The reason for it being undertaken now was questioned and the fact that Oaklands was not being repaired was also questioned. Cllr Ross is to send copy of the damage to Kent Highways, copying in Toby Howe, Cllr Bell and Cllr Bartlett.  The poor state of the road between Wemdon and Evegate was discussed, the Clerk will report this.  Cllr Hawkins asked the Clerk to contact PROW regarding the swing gate at Bower Farm.  Concern was expressed regarding the Royal Oak.  A large amount of water was note on Blind Lane.  The Clerk reported that the telephone kiosk adoption is during the consultation phase. The Clerk is hopeful that there will be more news on this at the February meeting.			TB  SR  TB  TB  TB												
<b>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.</b>  Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022 Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2022			All												
<b>The meeting closed at 9.10pm</b>															