

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church**

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

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett, 1 member of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

*To be actioned by:*

<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence.</b>  There were no apologies for absence.</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.</p>	
<p><b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b>  Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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>  Ashford Borough Council had provided a very brief response to the Tithe Barn situation. Paul Bartlett was asked to request further information from the Borough Council Planning department with regard to this site. This is to be reviewed in 2-3 weeks time.</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>  Paul Bartlett had attended a meeting with the Stone Street Solar developers. Ashford Borough Council have pressed them for a public meeting to explain how the concerns of the public have been accommodated in the plans. There is no statutory obligation on Stone Street Solar to reconsult.  As yet there has been no conclusion from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the path.  The Borough Councillor was asked about the HMO in Sevington. This is outside of Cllr Bartlett's area.  The Borough Councillor was asked if there is any news on the Planning Inspector's response regarding Chequer Tree Paddock. There was no response to date.</p>	
<p><b>To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield and the current situation at the Inland Border Facility</b>  Cllr Bartlett reported that the DfT are preparing a planning application through Ashford Borough Council for the use of the IBF site post 2025.  The Minister has assured the MP that planting will recommence on Highfield in 2023.</p>	
<p><b>To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan)</b>  Some of the new road markings are complete but not all, the Clerk has been corresponding with Kent Highways about this.  3 Councillors and the Clerk met with 2 members of Kent Highways. Major restructure of Church Road is in the plan but funds have not yet been committed. The Highways Steward and Engineer both understood the issue and may be able to temporarily fill the worst of the pot holes to make the road safer. The drainage issues on Kingsford Street were also discussed and will be referred to drainage to look into.</p>	All
<p><b>Update on the JPF</b>  The Clerk had received no comment from Strutt and Parker regarding the agreement for the JPF rental. The</p>	

<p>Clerk is to ask KALC for legal advice as to where the PC stands with this.  Cllr Turley is to meet with the Caretaker to discuss the upkeep of the play equipment.</p>	<p>TB  PT</p>
<p><b>To receive an update on the Village Hall</b>  Cllr Wells provided an update on the Village Hall.  The new Titles need to be registered with Land Registry. PT is to discuss the upkeep of the grassed areas with the Caretaker.</p>	<p>PT</p>
<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><b>a) The following applications required comments:</b></p> <p><u>OTH/2023/0204</u>  Quarrington Farm, Quarrington Lane, Mersham, TN25 5NG  Discharge of condition 4 (detailed drawings) for planning permission 21/01956/AS  No objections raised</p> <p><u>PA/2023/0159</u>  Conscience Farm, Blind Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent  Revised siting of approved digestate tank and landscaping layout to application 22/00840/AS (retrospective)  No objections raised</p> <p><u>PA/2023/0181</u>  Land South of Bliby Lodge, Ashford Road, Mersham, TN25 7JD  Certificate of Lawful Development - Existing - Use of the blue lined area for a B8 use (storage of building materials and equipment), use of the red lined area as outdoor recreational area, and the retention of the existing buildings on the site  No objections raised</p> <p><u>OTH/2023/0189</u>  Land south of Captains Wood, Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent  Discharge condition 10 (Elevational Fine Details) for phase B4-B5 relating to application 16/00125/AS  No objections raised</p> <p><u>OTH/2023/0156</u>  Land At Cheesemans Green, Land Parcels B4 And B5, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, TN25 7GZ  Non-material amendment to planning permission 16/00125/AS ((Land South of Captain's Wood phase) Construction of 326 new dwellings with associated access, parking, landscaped areas including a neighbourhood play area, internal roads for the development, details of distributor roads E and F, Waterbrook Link Road, a district play area north of Captain's Wood and surface water drainage measures) to alter by removing canopy posts to plots 309-310 and replacing them with brackets and to adjust the existing canopy to ensure structural stability to plots 201-206 &amp; 208-213  No objections raised</p> <p><u>OTH/2023/0085</u>  Quarrington Farm, Quarrington Lane, Mersham, TN25 5NG  Part discharge of condition 4 (d(Sections and Elevations of all new openings in stone masonry) &amp; e(All new joinery, sections, mouldings, and glazing bars and means of fixing glazing bars)) relating</p>	

to the East west elevation window for application 20/00162/AS

No objections raised

PA/2023/0029

Magpies, Bower Road, Mersham, TN25 6NW

Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed installation of 6no photovoltaic panels to roof of existing annex

No objections raised

**S106 – “oven-ready list” thoughts**

The Parish Councillors suggested that this could include:

The Sports Club

JPF Equipment

Purchase of the land at the rear of the shop

**Financial matters:**

**a) To note the Parish Council’s financial position.**

The financial position was noted as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

**b) To authorise any payments**

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
502247	Stour Downs PCC – Mersham Church	£ 90.00
502248	HMRC	£ 38.80
502249	I King (February salary)	£ 130.00
502250	T Block (February salary)	£ 408.84

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

It was proposed by the Chairman that the Parish Council should convert to online banking. This was seconded by Cllr Hawkins, all were in favour. **Resolved: the Parish Council will apply for online banking.**

TB

**Any Other Business (for information purposes only):**

It was noted that the mobile signals are poor.

There had been no news regarding the telephone box, the Clerk is to chase this.

TB

The APM was discussed, this is on 17<sup>th</sup> April and the speakers are to be approached.

TB

The fire hydrant at Cherry Glebe has been damaged, the Clerk will contact the Fire Brigade about this.

TB

The Sports Club are thinking of running a celebration for the Coronation of the King.

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

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

The meeting closed at 8.45pm