

Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council
Meeting held in on Monday, 22nd October 2019

Present	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair) Rick Martin James Townsend	Chris Kennedy Jan Oakley-Hills
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In attendance: 7 members of public, Cllr Paul Bartlett, Cllr Gerald White and Tracey Block (Clerk)
To be actioned by

Apologies for Absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Murphy and Turley.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest made.	
<p>Discussion regarding the Aldington Frith Site</p> <p>Mr Mickelborough and Mr Coulson introduced themselves to the meeting. Cllr Fletcher explained to the meeting that Mr Mickelborough and Mr Coulson had attended the meeting last month and a summary of the discussions that had taken place.</p> <p>Mr Mickelborough explained the position of him and Mr Coulson, looking at the site and possible outcomes. Should they stick to the existing permission which is to stay with the design that exists currently or whether to apply for a change to this that might be more aesthetically pleasing. There was a discussion surrounding ideas that would meet a solution that suite all needs.</p> <p><i>Public: What types of homes are you considering?</i></p> <p>GMi: The current permission is for 2 bedroom homes, is there a need for three bedroom homes or what do you think?</p> <p><i>Public: Would be good to have starter homes for young families but is this the thin edge of the wedge because there is no infrastructure in this area and there are real concerns about traffic.</i></p> <p><i>There are 2 aspects to the current design – 1. Small homes for younger families and 2. Small homes for down-sizing adults who do not want to live in larger homes. The build will not enhance the village if this is all about larger homes.</i></p> <p>GMi: The safety issues on the roads may well be able to be dealt with by some benefit off the back of the development. I was hoping that you could look at what is proposed and weigh the cost against the benefits. This is a brownfield site so I would not consider this to be setting any precedent. What would you prefer to see on the site? We will try and provide an opportunity to assist.</p> <p>GF: I have spoken with residents in the area BUT the concern for the other plan is that this is against HOU5. The Parish Council must be consistent. The farm buildings at Broad Oak had to be kept to their original size so as not set a precedent.</p> <p>PB: HOU5 has been fought for very hard to prevent development in the open countryside and I do not see this as a development that would be approved under HOU5. Would need to be look at by the Planning Committee and as such, I can say no more.</p> <p><i>Public: If the buildings were to remain as a similar height, this would be good but would not want to see the buildings stand out against those in the surrounding area.</i></p> <p><i>Are the current business units in use?</i></p> <p>SC: Yes, 3 of the 20 are currently occupied, no jobs will be lost and therare very poor sanitary facilities available on site.</p> <p>GW: Will you be building bungalows?</p> <p>GMi: the buildings will need to balance what is there, be in keeping and meet the needs of the local people.</p> <p>GF: Talking to residents it would seem that people prefer smaller more affordable homes, the area may not be suitable for older people.</p> <p>GMi: We would be looking to argue for a departure from HOU5.</p> <p>PB: It would be perverse to veer from HOU5 so soon.</p> <p>Drawing the discussion to a close, Cllr Fletcher agreed to discuss the matter further with the other Mersham Councillors and will liaise with Mr Mickelborough directly.</p>	

Public: Please do not introduce street lights – we really appreciate the dark skies.

Minutes of the Meeting on 23rd September 2019 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Solar Panel had been fitted and the invoice is awaited.

GM

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

2 members of the public explained that they were looking at converting their garage in to an annexe, the neighbours had done something similar. Cllr Fletcher said that as long as it would be within the footprint and be in-keeping it would probably raise no objections. It would bring an existing building that is not being used into being utilised.

A member of the Public asked when the Chequer Tree Paddock situation will be resolved? Cllr Bartlett explained that the paperwork is with the Solicitor and this is a slow process but it must be done correctly.

**Report from Borough Councillor
J10A**

By time you read this J10A should be partially open, at least that was intention at the time of writing! The works were re-programmed to enable the two 'coast facing' sliproads and the link road down to the Customs Clearance Site at Waterbrook to be useable by 31 October. This means that inbound HGV's travelling to HMRC 'transit' facility and those leaving site for Eurotunnel (having got ready) will be able to use the new junction.



The advertisement banners (see below for anyone who has missed them!) on the three M20 bridges in Mersham and Smeeth are comprised of a rigid composite aluminium material, fixed at 10cm intervals with check chains attached should the fixings fail. They are finished with an anti-graffiti coating. Any banner tampering related activity should be reported to Highways England on 0300 123 5000. Any illegal activity should be reported to the Police.

BUS SERVICES

ABC and KCC has entered into a funding agreeing for the B-Line up to 25 August 2020 which requires Stagecoach to operate a 15-12 minute service between 05:57 and 23:19 from Jersey Close/Broadhurst Drive/Eureka Place to Bridgefield via Bank Street and the Station. This is an important milestone in the argument to persuade Stagecoach to extend the Bridgefield service to Finberry

KCC has a "Report-it app" for residents to report any problems with the services at https://kentcc-self.achieveservice.com/service/Bus_service_feedback_form_Process. Please use it to report any service demands (such as to Finberry) so KCC can feedback to Stagecoach and work with them to improve services.

KCC's GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

KCC has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in the last three years. This strategy has been delivered by

- (i) a £40 million investment in upgrading 120,000 streetlights to LED,
- (ii) heating system upgrades across buildings,
- (iii) switching its fleet to electric-hybrid vehicles to reduce use of energy and fuel,
- (iv) investment in digital technologies allowing staff to travel one million fewer miles a year to carry out council business (equivalent to taking 125 cars off the road annually),
- (v) granting planning consent for Kronor House at Eureka Park to install solar panels and electric charging points, and
- (vi) Lady Joanna Thornhill Primary School (in Wye) has new solar panels installed which will generate approximately £6,000 worth of free electricity.

KCC plans to enable all of Kent to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

FOOTPATHS

It has been necessary to close certain Byways in Sevington.

Restricted Byway AE350 will be closed as follows

- between Waterbrook Avenue and Clover Road (a distance of approximately 340 metres)
- between the western side of the Railway sidings at the end of Arrowhead Road and Cheeseman's Green Lane (a distance of approximately 240 metres)

Public Bridleway AE667A will be closed from Waterbrook Avenue northwards to its connection with Restricted Byway AE350.

The closures are for the safety of the public and workforce whilst works are being carried out to construct the new HMRC clearance facility. These restrictions will remain in force until no later than April 2020.

KCC has adopted a new asset management plan for the PWoR network and can be viewed at <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=52610&Opt=0>

SEWAGE

The jetting /CCTV contractor have cleaned all the drains on Brambling Avenue. There were a lot of wipes and sanitary products within the run. There were also a few random items within the drainage i.e. mop heads and kids toys. These have all been cleared. The drains are now all free flowing but please take this as kind reminder not to out wipes and sanitary products down the toilets.

EAST KENT HOSPITALS

Since December 2018 all planned orthopaedic operations carried out at the WHH have been moved to the Kent & Canterbury (K&C) resulting in over 1,000 patients having their trauma, gynaecology and general surgery sooner at the WHH. This has been achieved at the WHH because a ward which was previously used for planned orthopaedic operations has been freed up. At K&C over 500 patients have had their joint replacement sooner than would have been the case.

This has been done in temporary buildings but now 4 new operating theatres will be built at the K&C costing £14m over 18 months from Q1 2020. This will result in a ward being freed up at the QEQM in Margate in the same way as WHH. EKHUFT should now no longer need to outsource planned orthopaedic operations to the private sector, will reduce waiting times and put an end to daily cancellations.

FLY TIPPING

KCC has committed £250k to reduce the level of flytipping in Kent. The aim is to assist districts and police to undertake further enforcement and inform households and businesses of their duty of care and responsibilities on waste disposal. Across Kent the number of flytipping incidences reduced 148 Q2 2018 to Q2 2019 (down 3.3%). The actions include:

- (i) Employing a dedicated Intelligence Analyst to support the environmental crime agenda across Kent to allow more successful interventions and prosecutions.
- (ii) Started Op Assist with the districts enforcement team to target prolific flytippers.
- (iii) Police resources following KCC investment have doubled in numbers to 12 PCs, 1 Sgt, 1 Coordinator and 1 Inspector.
- (iv) Additional enforcement technology has been purchased including trackers, smartwater and covert cameras.
- (v) New signage utilising the #keepkentclean branding is being deployed. "Take Your Litter Home" signage has also been deployed at key locations.
- (vi) KCC and police and NFU have contacted the Magistrates Association to raise awareness of environmental crime to encourage larger fine or sentences to be given.
- (vii) A communication campaign is being launched to explain to residents and small businesses their duty of care and starve illegitimate disposal businesses of custom.

EXTRA CARE FACILITY ON FINBERRY

Planning consent has been granted for construction of an 80-unit Independent Living and Extra Care Ready (over 55 years) Facility in Finberry, close to the School.



Full details are at <https://planning.ashford.gov.uk/Planning/details.aspx?systemkey=102488>

DEMENTIA CARE

KCC is seeking people's views on the future of community-based wellbeing services for older people, adults living with dementia, physical disabilities or sensory impairments. KCC spends £5.9m on these services each year, across 52 voluntary and community organisations. This funds befriending, volunteer run transport schemes, dementia cafés, support services for people with sensory impairment and peer support for people with physical disabilities.

KCC aims to create a new service model designed to make sure everybody has the opportunity for their wellbeing needs to be met, wherever they live in the county and whatever a person's ability. The new model will deliver wellbeing services that are easier to access, better connected and focused on the things people have told the council are important to them.

Please visit the consultation page www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation. It is open until December 1.

MENTAL HEALTH

Following World Mental Health Day on 10 October, KCC is reminding residents of the support services available across the county.

There is a free NHS-approved online tool which helps people build an action plan to deal with stress and anxiety, boost their mood, improve their sleep and help them feel more in control. This can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/everymindmatters

One of the support services commissioned by KCC is Live Well Kent which provides a free, person centred, holistic service that supports people to manage issues in life that impact on their mental health and wellbeing. It is open to any Kent residents aged 17 or older. Live Well Kent works in partnership with clinical services providing an alternative which is focussed on wellbeing, connectivity, prevention and recovery. It is based on open referrals – anyone can access help when they need it – for more details, go to www.livewellkent.org.uk or call 0800 567 7699.

For young people, there is a new web resource attached to the Kent Resilience Hub available at www.kentresiliencehub.org.uk offering information on promoting and protecting good emotional health. This includes videos and tools, as well as activities and service information. These resources have been developed by HeadStart Kent which aims to help young people cope better when faced with difficult circumstances in their lives, preventing them from experiencing common mental health problems

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION FOR FINBERRY

The Church Commissioners have requested that their contribution towards secondary school provision is reduced because the rate of building has been lower than expected resulting in a two year delay in achieving targets. KCC and ABC have rejected their request as the new school planned for Chilington Green will still be started in 2022.

Cllr Bartlett also reported that:

There has been a request for traffic calming at Broadoak.

The Village Hall application is in the hands of the Solicitors

Colliers Hill site is in the hands of the Solicitors

The application for the 3 houses on the edge of the A2070 is in hand. Sevington was struck out of the windfall sites but it has been suggested that this might be allowed. Cllr Bartlett is concerned about the interpretation of HOU5.

The smell at Finberry should now be resolved

The land by 12 Glebelands is flooding – Housing and Aspire have been informed.

Cllr White:

The major problems on my side is how badly the businesses have been affected on Barrey Road. The Waterbrook access is now a priority over sorting the entrance to Barrey Road. One business in particular has seen takings drop from £1.5m to £0.5m this year. Looking at financial compensation for businesses as access is a major issue. Land with pigs on it has gone very quiet.

Cllr Bartlett had been approached by Cllr Martin

Cllr Martin had asked that the bus route to Bridgefield is opened – this is currently under active consideration by KCC. Cllr Martin has also asked that the single lane should be further from the round-about. Mott MacDonald are managing the project and as yet no firm response has been received. There must be a certain distance from the right turn to Sevington. It has been much busier on the A2070 than previously, could be a health risk. Could there be a way in to Finberry and no way way-out via Sevington South as no Ambulances etc. could currently get in on time?

This is an issue that is likely to get worse once Waterbrook is operational, there is so much desire to open J10a by 31/10 and the traffic lights are supposed to be in operation as soon as 500 houses have been completed on Finberry. The traffic lights are not possible whilst J10a work is being undertaken but they would provide a right turn out of Finberry. J10a completion, totally complete by 31/10? Not fully complete.

Report from PCSO

No report had been received.

Clerks Report – October 2019

Planning Enforcements

There has been no further news on the Planning Enforcement Issues in the Parish and all listed below have been reported to ABC.

Chequer Tree Paddock is on-going. Planning application has been refused.

Pettworth – the situation is being monitored

Correspondence

There were 3 applications for the role of litter-picker for Sevington North and the previous litter-picker has been appointed by the Parish Council.

De-coupling

Keeping the following on the report seems sensible but with updates:

1. A minutes resolution to pursue a de-grouping of the Parish Council – **minuted 170619**
2. A consultation undertaken to parishioners asking for feedback on the idea – latest copy circulated and amendments suggested by Sarah Hartles. **The responses are being received regularly and as at 13/10/19 there have been 75 responses, all being supportive.**
3. A collation of results of the consultation and, if appropriate, a minuted resolution to de-group. **Aiming to have results collated and a decision made at the November meeting**
4. A formal request sent to Ashford Borough Council (Sarah Hartles) along with a copy of the minuted resolution, the consultation and the results of the consultation.
5. A clear financial plan for each of the new parish councils – **Partially drawn up previous to meeting on 170619, to be revisited regularly. Needs to be finalised at the November meeting**
6. A list of assets for each of the new Parish Councils – **sent to PT following meeting on 170619**
7. Precept amounts for 2020-21 agreed – **suggested precepts discussed but to re-visit before finalising. Needs to be finalised at the November meeting**
8. The names of the new Parish Councils agreed. **Needs to be finalised at the November meeting**

9. Confirm the numbers of Parish Councillors for each Parish Council and begin advertising for them.

NB. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 need to be in writing to Sarah Hartles by 1/12/2019.

Planning Matters:

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

[19/01395/AS](#)

The Hay Loft, Laws Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HG

Change of use from agricultural access and track to residential access/driveway

Mersham Councillors to view this application again.

[19/01400/AS](#)

Ransley House, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PF

Replacement of existing UPVC clad mono pitch lean to with a new brick built version with tiled roof to match existing to include extension to catslide roof; extension to the existing single storey pitched extension on side elevation

The Parish Council raises no objections to this application

19/01432

15 The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NA

Proposed rear pitched roof extension creating a Ground floor bedroom and ensuite wet room.

The Parish Council raises no objections to this application

PT/GM/GF

Financial Matters

a. To note/authorise the following:

i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position

The Parish Council bank balance as at 14/10/2019 was £17,108.27

ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501955	Omicrom printing	£ 168.00
501956	Mersham Litterpicker – October	£ 106.73
501957	Sevington Litterpicker – October	£ 30.80
501958	HMRC	£ 38.80
501959	Clerk's Salary – October	£ 621.63
501960	Kent Wildlife Trust	£ 700.00
501961	Black sacks for Sevington Litter picker	£ 15.99

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

To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment

There were no changes to the Risk Assessment at this time

Separation of the parishes

Thanks were extended to everyone who helped deliver the separation letters.

85 responses had been received so far – 60 for Mersham, 24 for Sevington and 1 unknown.

Cllrs will encourage further responses.

The Clerk will circulate copies of the Precept for next year for consideration ahead of the November meeting.

Any Other Business

Cllr Oakley-Hills noted that the Councillor list is incorrect in The Villager. The Clerk will send another copy of the Councillor List to Alix at The Villager.

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

Monday 18th November 2019 – to be held at the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

Monday 20th January 2020

Monday 17th February 2020– to be held at the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

Monday 16th March 2020

Monday 13th April 2020

Monday 18th May 2020

The meeting closed at 9.10pm