

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church**

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

*To be actioned by:*

<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence.</b>          Apologies had been received from Cllr Bartlett who had to attend another meeting.</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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>          Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were approved as a true record and were signed as such.</p>	
<p><b>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.</b>          The Clerk had circulated a response from Toby Howe at KCC regarding the tuning circle.          The footpath behind Bower Farm is supposed to be re-opened but remains shut.          The lights on the behind the hedge footpath are KCC owned and have been reported directly to the Public Rights of Way department.</p>	
<p><b>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</b>          The 2 member of public attended to discuss the planning application for Glendale House.          This application is for 3 dwellings on the current site.          The concerns explained were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The neighbouring property is attached via a wall and has not been approached as to how this wall will be removed without causing damage to the property it is attached to.</li> <li>• Planning applications have been consistently refused where they have not been on an existing footprint. This application is not on the existing footprint and should be refused to ensure it is consistent with neighbouring applications.</li> <li>• Currently the neighbour is not over-looked and is surrounded by industrial units but this application will leave the neighbour over-looked by 2-storey dwellings.</li> <li>• The new applications will affect the noise levels and the light that the current neighbour enjoys.</li> <li>• This will create an additional 9 vehicles on the road.</li> <li>• The application highlights that the walnut tree on the neighbouring property requires work but the owner has not been approached.</li> <li>• There has been little consultation, the main consultees are business units who are not affected as they do not live on the site.</li> <li>• A pre-application was submitted to Ashford Borough Council.</li> <li>• The neighbours do not agree that the criteria for isolated development are met because the units are not empty and have been left to fall in to a state of disrepair.</li> </ul>	
<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>           Cllr Turley questioned when the consultation would take place on Highfield. It is expected by the end of the year.</p>	
<p><b>To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan)</b>          Traffic surveys have been undertaken with a view to extending the speed limit past Quarry View and looking at installing gateways and a speed indicator device. Following the surveys there is to be a follow up meeting in December with Highways. Cllrs Fletcher, Murphy and Turley are to attend. The Parish Council is keen to progress these but can only do so on Highways approval as we are bound by their regulations. The costs of improvements can be found on</p>	GF/ GM/PT

the Parish Council website under Highways Improvement Plan.																		
<b>To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield</b> The public consultation is awaited.																		
<b>To discuss the current situation at the inland Border facility</b> No response has been received from the new Minister and no meetings arranged despite promises from her team. Cllr Fletcher is to draft a communication to Damian Green MP explaining our disappointment with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of consultation</li> <li>• Lack of signage</li> <li>• Poor lighting improvements</li> <li>• End of Kingsford Street damage - The Council is asking for a commitment to make the whole area fit for purpose.</li> <li>• Lack of contingency when closing the turning circle for 5 weeks</li> </ul>																		
<b>To receive an update regarding the current situation 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.																		
<b>To discuss the proposed street light adoption/removal.</b> The Parish Council is against any loss of streetlighting.																		
<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> It was noted that the Parish Council is not notified that an application is to be discussed at the Planning Committee – the Clerk is to ask Cllr Bartlett to take this up with the Planning department. The Planning Applications requiring a response were:			TB															
21/01374/AS	Glendale House, Coopers Lane, Aldington Frith	Demolition of existing units and hard standing and erection of 3 detached dwellings with associated access, parking, landscaping and infrastructure.																
The Parish Council is to submit an objection raising the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The buildings have not been maintained.</li> <li>• There is demand for these units as demonstrated by the nearby business units.</li> <li>• The site is still in use on a Thursday</li> <li>• There is concern about the demolition of the adjoining wall and the neighbouring property.</li> <li>• The Parish Council has been approached by neighbours who are immediate but have not been consulted.</li> <li>• Any increase of traffic on the troublesome junction should be limited</li> </ul>																		
21/01938/AS	Chelwood, Mersham	Conversion of and extension to garage including first floor side/rear extensions and extension to porch																
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application																		
21/01955/AS	Quarrington Farm, Quarrington Lane, West Brabourne	Additions of dormer window to north elevation, demolition of existing lean to and replacement extension, new porch.																
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<b>Financial matters:</b> <p>a) <b>To note the Parish Council's financial position for the beginning of the new Financial Year.</b> The financial position was noted as at 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021</p> <p>b) <b>To authorise any payments</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque No:</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>502152</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£ 58.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502153</td> <td>I King (November salary)</td> <td>£ 124.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502154</td> <td>T Block (November salary)</td> <td>£ 383.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>502155</td> <td>I King (December salary)</td> <td>£ 164.14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Cheque No:	Payee	Amount	502152	HMRC	£ 58.20	502153	I King (November salary)	£ 124.14	502154	T Block (November salary)	£ 383.86	502155	I King (December salary)	£ 164.14	
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5012156	T Block (December salary)	£ 369.06	
<p>c) To approve the budget for 2022/23 The Parish Council approved the budget totalling £28,000.</p> <p>d) To approve the precept for 2022/23 The Parish Council agreed to precept for £28,000.</p> <p>The Clerk asked the Council to approve some printing costs up to £25 for the broadband project and the Arboricultural Survey and Report which will cost £455 this year. The Council approved this expenditure.</p> <p>A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.</p>			
<p><b>Any Other Business (for information purposes only):</b></p> <p>The Sevington exchange is part of the OpenReach roll-out so is out of the hands of the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Aldington exchange properties in Mersham that do not already have the opportunity to have Fibre to the Property, are to be taken forward in a demand led scheme. The Parish Council will distribute leaflets to these properties with a covering letter in the hope that many will sign up and the project can be delivered.</p> <p>The footpath at Bower Farm is still inaccessible, the Clerk will follow this up.</p> <p>Cllr Wells reported that there had been a sewage leak near the Village Hall.</p>			TB
<p><b>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.</b></p> <p>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p>			All
<p><b>The meeting closed at 9.10pm</b></p>			