

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 19th July 2021 at St John the Baptist Church

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

In attendance: 4 members of the public, Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence. There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>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. Cllr Fletcher noted that he had worked alongside the company that have been involved in planning application: 21/01173/AS.</p>	
<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2021 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 21st June 2021 were approved as a true record and were signed as such.</p>	
<p>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters raised.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. The members of public had attended the meeting to discuss the planning application in Kingsford Street, application 21/01173/AS. Each member of the public spoke in turn raising the following issues: The land in question has a covenant over it which has meant that properties were purchased on the understanding that they would retain the views. There is a lack of footpaths and streetlights. No visitor parking is planned for. This application could set a precedent. This estate style housing has its place, i.e. Little Burton where there is an infrastructure of open space available. This development does not complement the village and provides nothing positive. The village was assessed as “gardenesque” in character and this development is not in fitting with this. Stumble Holme is noted as a new home but this is a replacement building. This development is significant.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett stated that if the Officer is minded to approve this development the application will be taken to Planning Committee giving the Borough Councillor, the Parish Council and a resident the opportunity to speak against the application (there is also the opportunity for one speaker in favour of the application). Cllr Bartlett that the development was too intense for the location and out of keeping.</p> <p>Cllr Turley explained that the developer had written to him and the content of the email was read to the meeting. A member of the public wished to respond to the comment about density, the sunken access opens on to an unlit road with no pavements.</p> <p>It was felt that this is a sensitive site due to the historic builds around this part of the village, the M20, J10a, the IBF, the development at Hinxhill, the additional cumulative development has been met in the Parish and this side of the village has been impinged by these developments. The fight to save a green buffer seems absurd if we are to build that close to the site. The covenant clearly illustrated the benefits enjoyed by the residents who knowingly benefitted from this. This would appear to be over development of this site, with the properties opposite sitting in deep plots whereas this plot is shallow in comparison. The lack of visitor parking is an issue. The Clerk is to write and circulate a response on behalf of the Parish Council.</p>	TB

<p>To receive report from Borough Councillor</p> <p>A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website: http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett also added to his report that he had seen the KCC Highways Plan and the reconstruction of the bridge and reconstruction of the road near the School is to be completed by March 2023.</p> <p>Planning application for Acorn Cottage will be taken to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>The Park Homes development applied for at the Frith business centre will also go the Planning Committee.</p> <p>The street light opposite Bower Lodge has been repaired.</p> <p>Cllr Bell and Cllr Bartlett met with the DfT and the lighting on the IBF will be addressed to include baffles and 10% reduction in luminaires, this is all expected to take place during the summer.</p> <p>The biodiversity report will be released in due course, no date is yet known.</p> <p>Highways England plans for signage on the M20 require a topographical report to be undertaken. DEFRA will be on site in January 2022 and the signage will need to be correct in time for this.</p> <p>The DfT are in communication with Google maps regarding the post coding issue for the IBF. Other satnav providers have also been advised about the postcode.</p> <p>Ashford Borough Council and the DfT are in negotiation regarding the purchase of Highfield. The path through Highfield is due to have some remedial work undertaken.</p> <p>Gerry Clarkson and Tracey Kerly (ABC) have reviewed the Kent Wildlife Trust report and have agreed to the liability of the £600,000 plus the 30 year on-going maintenance plan.</p> <p>Cllr Fletcher has written to Damian Green MP explaining the issues Mersham face regarding the IBK and lorries, lack of proper signage and low level lighting request. Cllr Fletcher is to chase Damian Green for a response.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett was asked as to why we have Brock in place. This is because it was thought at the time that there would be a mass exodus of people holidaying in France and Brock would act as a lorry park while the holiday makers departed in their droves. However, this is no longer the case and it is hoped that the barriers for Brock will soon be removed.</p>	
<p>Confirming Councillor Roles</p> <p>The document previously circulated was confirmed.</p>	
<p>To receive an update on Highways Issues (Including the Highways Improvement Plan)</p> <p>There is to be a Highways meeting with Kelly Garrett for 26/8. This is to discuss moving the speed sign beyond Quarry View and find a location for the Speed Indicator Device.</p>	
<p>To receive an update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in Highfield</p> <p>This in the hands of Ashford Borough Council.</p>	
<p>To discuss the current situation at the inland Border facility</p> <p>Cllr Turley has corresponded with Daniel Fryd regarding the issues with lighting from the site, Cllr Turley is to forward the correspondence to Cllr Fletcher who will take this up with Damian Green MP.</p>	
<p>To receive an update regarding position of the broadband project for Mersham</p> <p>There was no further news on this at present.</p>	
<p>To receive an update regarding the current situation regarding the Village Hall</p> <p>Cllr Wells provided an update, the new locks had been fitted and new doors ordered by the Chairman have been cancelled. Cllr Ross is to put the 2 fridges out for kerb-side collection on 22/7. The situation here is delicate. The Village Hall is a member of ACRK, Cllr Wells has communicated with both the Charity Commission and ACRK.</p> <p>The deed that is registered with the Charity Commission states that there are 2 sets of trustees, the holding trustees and the management trustees. The holding trustee needs to be the Charity Commission and the Management Committee are the Management trustees.</p> <p>It has come to the attention of the Parish Council that it is registered as the "sole trustee" to the Village Hall on the</p>	

Charity Commission website and this is not the case. The Parish Council signed a letter to the members of the Management Committee explaining that the Parish Council is not a trustee.

The Parish Council Clerk is to write to the Charity Commission to state that it is not a trustee.

The organisations named in the trust deed can nominate a member to be on the Management Committee of the Village Hall. Cllr Wells is the nominated Councillor for Mersham Parish Council. The Clerk will notify the Secretary to that effect.

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.

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

21/01188/AS	Mulberry House, Gill Lane, Mersham	Conversion of existing outbuilding to ancillary accommodation along with addition of new roof to create a new home office above existing detached garage.
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application		
21/01173/AS	Land North of Stumble Holme, Kingsford Street, Mersham	Erection of 5 residential dwellings with associated access
The Parish Council objects to this application		
21/01159/AS	South Stour Offices, Mersham	Lawful Development Certificate Existing
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application		
21/01169/AS	Frith Business Centre, Frith road, Aldington	Change of use of the former business centre to allow 30 residential park homes to be sited.
The Parish Council objects to this application		
21/01116/AS	Gill Farm, Gill Lane, Mersham	Retrospective application for erection of an agricultural building
The Parish Council raised no objection to this application		

Financial matters:

a) To note the Parish Council's financial position for the beginning of the new Financial Year.

The financial position was noted as at 30th June 2021

b) To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
502115	KWT Consultancy Service	£2706.00
502116	Mersham Village Hall	£ 143.02
502117	Lock repairs to the Village Hall door	£ 311.00
502118	ABC kerbside waste collection	£ 52.00
502119	I King (July salary)	£ 124.14
502120	T Block (July salary)	£ 383.86
502121	HMRC	£ 58.40
502122	I King (August salary)	£ 124.14
502124	T Block (August salary)	£ 383.86

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

Any Other Business (for information purposes only):

The gateways to the village are now complete.

The drains on Kingsford Street have been cleared.

Dog waste is an issue on the new path.

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

Monday 20th September 2021

Monday 18th October 2021

Monday 15th November 2021 Monday 17th January 2022 Monday 21st February 2022 Monday 21st March 2022 Monday 18th April 2022	All
The meeting closed at 9.21pm	