

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in
the Church Room, St John the Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 20th November 2017**

Present	Peter Turley (Chair)	Ken Botfield
	Rob Hansen	Jan Oakley-Hills
	Henrietta Sawdon	Mick Smithers
	Lee Whitehead	

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

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Fletcher, Murphy and Stewart.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest on the agenda.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 16 th October 2017 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p><i>Finberry- notice board</i> The Clerk had received a positive response from Crest Nicholson regarding the possibility of a notice-board on Finberry. It is planned that one will be erected next year.</p> <p><i>De-coupling of parishes</i> Terry Mortimer, the Solicitor for Ashford Borough Council had responded to the Clerk regarding the possibility of de-coupling of Mersham and Sevington as both parishes are growing. It was suggested that some consensus of feeling should be sought from the residents of Sevington North, South and Finberry as well as those in Mersham as to how residents feel about the de-coupling of the parishes.</p> <p><i>Bench</i> Cllr Smithers had asked B. Ball to undertake the installation of bench, this had been completed at the weekend, and an invoice was submitted for the work.</p> <p><i>Bank Forms</i> The Clerk had received notification from the bank that all new signatories were confirmed.</p> <p><i>Battery for speed sign</i> The Clerk had obtained a price for a new battery, this was £133 +VAT. Further information is awaited from Cllr Murphy who had agreed to try and source an alternative at less cost. This will be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p><i>JPF Lease</i> A proposed lease had been received and the Parish Council had responded asking for a 10 year term on a renewable basis. The Clerk is to contact Strutt and Parker again to follow up on this communication.</p> <p><i>Community Assets</i> The Clerk is mid-form completion with regard to registering all of the assets highlighted.</p> <p><i>Tree Preservation Orders</i> The Clerk had forwarded the detail to Cllr Murphy who is reviewing the possibility of having TPOs applied to the Oaks as they have been identified as non-deciduous.</p> <p><i>Boulders in Kingsford Street</i> The boulders had been highlighted with Kent Highways and the residents notified.</p>	<p>Sevington sub-committee to discuss</p> <p>GM</p> <p>TB</p>

<p><i>Mr King</i> The Clerk had written to the Forstal asking them to confirm that Ian is capable of carrying out the duties for which he is employed unsupervised but is yet to hear back.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. The member of the public suggested that the minutes could be published on the “Next door” website. The member of the public offered to post these and the Council agreed.</p>	
<p>Co-option of a new Councillor for the Sevington Ward Mr Botfield had come forward to volunteer as a Councillor. The declaration of pecuniary interest was completed and acceptance of office was completed and signed, the Clerk also signed the acceptance of office. Mr Botfield was welcomed on to the Council.</p>	
<p>Report from Borough Councillor Local Plan - Ashford Borough Council will be agreeing the final plan document prior to submission to the Planning inspectorate at a meeting on 14th December. Cllr Bartlett had circulated his last comments on the matter and it is now hoped that the Village Protection (Buffer) will be protected. The papers will be available about a week before the meeting and it is advisable to check that nothing has been missed at that point. Cllr Turley will attend the meeting on 14th December.</p> <p>KCC are offering salt bags – it was suggested that the Clerk might ask for one to be stored on the corner between Church Lane and Church Road.</p> <p>The footpath between Bridgefield and Finberry is now open. The A350, however, is not open – the Clerk and Cllr Bartlett will both chase this matter with the Paths Partnership.</p> <p>Cllr Bartlett had not had any news regarding Lancaster’s but Cllr Turley explained that they had not moved on. The noise abatement notice was served but this is not causing a statutory nuisance. The matter has been passed to a different Planning Officer, Tony Jarvis, Cllr Turley was waiting for him to be in touch. There have been rumours that Lancaster’s will move on.</p> <p>A communication had been received from a Mr Thomas regarding the parking problems near the shop. Mr Thomas has been advised to collect evidence so that a credible case can be built, however, in the meantime the Clerk has requested that the yellow lines be refreshed. Cllr Bartlett will liaise with the County Councillor, Clair Bell, to ensure this matter is taken forward.</p> <p><i>Cllr Smithers reminded Cllr Bartlett that the notice will expire on 28th March for the residents of Chequer Tree Paddock to leave. Cllr Bartlett explained that the eviction of these people is a Police matter.</i></p>	
<p>Report from Community Warden The Community Warden reported that both Halloween and fireworks night had been enjoyed by those involved and everyone appeared to have been well-behaved. There have been reported burglaries in Blind Lane and also thefts from Trades Vehicles in Ashford. The reported fly-tipping has been cleared. Cllr Kingston has also tried to make contact with Mr Thomas regarding the parking issues and highlighted that obstruction is a policy matter that is only enforceable by a Police Officer.</p>	
<p>Planning Matters: A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:</p> <p>17/01585/AS Land between Caffyns and Orbital Marketing Services Group, The Boulevard, Sevington Proposed car salesroom building with associated storage/display area, vehicular access and landscaping.</p>	

The Parish Council raised no objections

17/01641/AS

Mitchells House, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PE

Conversion of, and extension to, existing detached stone garage to provide 2 bedroom ancillary guest house accommodation

The Parish Council raised no objections

17/01658/AS

Rose Cottage, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NT

Lawful development certificate - Proposed - New Roof and minor internal reconfiguration works

The Parish Council raised no objections

17/01690/AS

Mercedes Benz of Ashford, Monument Way, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0HB

Extension of the car dealership use onto land immediately to the East of the existing dealership. Including extended vehicle parking, new site access, water course diversion and enhanced site wide landscaping with associated finishes and boundary treatments.

The Parish Council raised no objections

17/01699/AS

Cranwell House, The Forstal, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6NU

Erection of 2 detached dwellings

The Parish Council raises objections for the following reasons:

- 1) The site represents a large countryside gap with in the village of Mersham. Loss of this countryside space would adversely affect the character of the village.
- 2) The proposed buildings will be close to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order. If built, the house owners would in due course apply pressure to the council to allow severe pruning and/or removal. Such works would adversely impact the character of the village.
- 3) The proposal for 2 large modern houses would compromise the wider setting of the nearby listed buildings.

Additionally the Parish Council are adamant that the current driveway linking to Church Road is unsuitable given

1. the volume of traffic on Church Road,
2. the fact that this section of Church Road is frequently reduced to a single file road due to the following parking habits
 - o twice daily parking at school drop off and pick up times evening
 - o weekend parking associated with village hall events
 - o evening and weekend parking associated with Farriers In events and customer parking
3. That the current driveway requires the users to execute a 360 turn with very restricted site of traffic coming down Church Road, which as mentioned is frequently reduced to a single file road.

Financial Matters

To approve the following financial documents:

To note/authorise the following:

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £35,944.46

To authorise any payments including the Clerk's Salary and the Litter picker's Salary

The following payments were authorised:

Cheque	Payee's Name	Reason for Payment	Amount	Notes
501819	T Saint	Litter Pickers Salary – November (Sevington)	£ 116.13	
501820	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – November (Mersham)	£ 93.60	
501821	Playgrounds On-line	Swing seat x 2 for JPF	£ 120.00	
501823	T Block	Expenses – ink and photocopying	£ 81.84	
501824	T Block	Clerks Salary (November)	£ 462.40	
501825	T Saint	Litter Pickers Salary – December (Sevington)	£ 166.13	
501826	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – December (Mersham)	£ 133.60	
501827	T Block	Clerks Salary (December)	£ 395.67	
501828	HMRC	PAYE	£ 89.60	

A budget over expenditure and financial statement had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that an extra £500 circa. Would be ring-fenced to pay for a new noticeboard in Sevington North at the play-area.

A memorial for Lade Brabourne was tentatively suggested and it was agreed that the budget should ring-fence £15,000 for “Special projects” at no additional cost to the tax payer.

The Parish Council agreed the draft budget.
The Parish Council agreed to precept for £15,800.

Christmas Tree

It was agreed that a circuit breaker, external box and additional lights would be purchased. The budget for this was up to circa £300. Cllr Turley is to investigate this further.

Any Other Business

New parking restrictions have been suggested for Foster Road, these are to be discussed at the sub-committee meeting in Sevington North.

Cllr Turley asked if any further discussion had taken place regarding the land behind the shop. There is no news as yet.

A red Ford Fiesta associated with a spate of crime has been spotted in the area.

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 15th January 2018, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 5th January, please.

All

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.30 PM.