

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in  
the Church Room, St John the Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

<b>Present</b>	Pete Turley (Chair) Gavin Murphy Henrietta Sawdon	Geoffrey Fletcher Jan Oakley-Hills Lee Whitehead
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In attendance: Tracey Block (Clerk), Paul Bartlett  
8 members of the public

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hansen, Kibble, Smithers and Stewart. Cllr White also sent apologies for absence.	
<b>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda</b> There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
<b>Minutes</b> of the Meeting on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> <b>Bench</b> The bench has arrived and is to be installed following removal of the old. Cllr Stewart is to organise this.  <b>JPF</b> The Clerk had received 5 quotations for the replacement safety ground cover at the JPF. The Parish Councillors considered the quotations and decided to go ahead with the SSP 800 ground cover as supplied by Specialised Sports Products (SSP) based in Lower Hardres. The Clerk is to make contact with SSP and confirm the order. Paint has been purchased for the painting of the play equipment and the remedial repairs are almost complete. The Clerk is to apply for funding for the Ground cover from Ashford Borough Council, Paul Bartlett's fund and Andrew Wickham's Community Grant Scheme.	KS    TB  TB
<b>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</b> <b>Planning Application:</b> Mrs Clemitson and Mrs Van Cleef attended the meeting to explain their plans that are to be submitted to the Borough Council in early March. Their proposal is to build 2 homes behind their current homes with a shared driveway to enable them to remain in the village but to not have such large gardens to maintain. Ashford Borough Council has viewed the preliminary plans and has agreed in principle. The Parish Councillors needed time to consider what impact this might have although it is noted that the applicants have tried to minimise the impact on the immediate neighbours.  <b>Petworth:</b> Immediate neighbours and active complainants have now received a letter from Ashford Borough Council outlining that the Borough Council Enforcement Order has been appealed against with the following as reasons: <i>That there has not been a breach of planning control.</i> <i>That, at the time of the enforcement notice was issued, it was too late to take enforcement action against the matters stated in the notice.</i> <i>The steps required to comply with the requirements of the notice are excessive, and lesser steps would overcome the objections.</i> <i>That the time given to comply with the notice is too short.</i> <i>The appellant has requested that this appeal be dealt by way of a <b>Public Inquiry</b>.</i> It was felt that the matter being dealt with as a public inquiry was not in the interests of the public.	

<p>It was recommended that there is strength in numbers and the number of people objecting to this gives weight to the objection. There is concern that those objecting might face a vendetta or campaign of intimidation. It would be best to keep a detailed log of activity and photographic evidence.</p> <p>The Clerk will draft a response to the Planning Inspectorate re: public enquiry because of the possibility of intimidation. Residents of Kingsford Street who have been affected are to be encouraged to make a representation to the Planning Inspectorate, Ashford Borough Council will support this action.</p>	
<p><b>Report from Borough Councillor</b></p> <p><b>S. 106 at Stour Park</b>  The details of this are not yet finalised but the Parish Council will not benefit from this. It is hoped it will pay for the closure of Kingsford Street and a turning circle</p> <p><b>Finberry</b>  The building at Finberry has now reached 230 houses, there are a number of trigger points that are to be hit in the on-coming months, at 301 houses the agreement requires the bridge road to be put in, at 400 houses, the community centre becomes required. At 500 houses a full set of working traffic lights will need to be in operation. The Parish Council will again be involved quite soon.</p> <p><b>Waterbrook</b>  A planning application is imminent to relocate and expand the lorry park so that it is nearer the VOSA site. There are issues that have been highlighted by the Environment Agency with regard to flooding. The new lorry park is looking to hold 600 lorries whereas the current lorry park holds 375 lorries. Damian Green suggested that legislation will probably be passed once sufficient parks are provided to ensure that lorries are parked in lorry parks and not on sides of roads. Potentially, though, there might be a plan to put housing at Waterbrook and there will be a problem for the residents in that housing with noise and over-flow parking etc.</p> <p><b>Affordable Housing</b>  Once the Affordable Housing project at Bower Road is built and occupied it is possible that additional housing will be provided replicating this project, maybe in Kingsnorth or near by. Funding may not be available but it is something that might be looked at in the future.</p> <p><b>J10 and the Planning Inspectorate</b>  The Planning Inspectorate starts his Junction 10a site visit on 21<sup>st</sup> February. The meeting will be at Ashford Business Point, Sharon and Paul are sharing days spent at this meeting. Paul will mention the tangible issues of no lorry park giving a traffic impact, Barrey Road and the problems in that area, noise barriers and low noise surfaces are necessary.</p> <p>The bollards at Sevington are likely to cost £250,000, there has been no further movement on that and it is thought that the only real solution is to provide traffic lights/roundabout at the Barrey road junction of the A2070.</p>	
<p><b>Report from Community Warden</b>  Reports from both the PSCO and the Community Warden had been received and circulated. There have been a number of attempts at oil theft in recent weeks. The Farriers Arms has had another break in and there are problems with teens behaviour at Bridgefield.</p>	
<p><b>To receive an update following Sevington North Sub-committee Meeting</b>  The play area has been maintained and the improvements are noticeable. There is a Neighbourhood Watch System started up again in Sevington north. There is a new car park waiting limit of 3 hours in operation. The bollards are still not being used at night and advertising is still an issue.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to move some meetings to the Church at Willesborough to make Parish Council</p>	

Meetings accessible to some of the Sevington North residents. This was suggested as not practical at this time as there is no way of telling residents about the change of location. It is hoped that the new website [www.mspc.org.uk](http://www.mspc.org.uk) will provide better information for the residents and be used more widely as a tool for communicating information.

Sevington will soon be twice the size of Mersham and there appears to be no easy solution to the diversity of the 2 parishes so a boundary split is something that should be considered over the next couple of years.

It was noted that the Parish Paths Partnership need to be notified about the disrepair of the paths AE345 and AE354 as they are impassable.

**Planning Matters:**

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

Reference: 17/00097/AS

Address: Stonelees, Laws Lane, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HG

Proposal: Prior approval for change of use from agricultural barn to one dwelling house

**The Parish Council raises no objection to this application**

Reference: 17/00125/AS

Address: Land at Cheesemans Green, Cheesemans Green Lane, Kingsnorth, Kent

Proposal: Erection of a pumping station and electricity substation, construction of part of Distributor Road B, incorporation of landscaping and other associated works

**The Parish Council raises no objection to this application**

Reference: 17/00145/AS

Address: Burgate, The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6ND

Proposal: Repairs to the structural timber-frame, remove WG 1, replace remaining windows and doors. Replace weatherboard and stain black. Repairs to end masonry wall.

**The Parish Council raises no objection to this application**

**Financial Matters**

**To approve the following financial documents:**

**i. To note/authorise the following:**

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £31,006.19.

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
501763	T Block	Expenses – Litter Picker costs and web address	£ 51.27	
501764	T Block	Clerks Salary – February	£440.81	
501765	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – February (Mersham)	£ 93.60	
501766	T Saint	Litter Pickers Salary – February (Sevington)	£ 87.10	
501767	HMRC	Tax paid on Salaries	£ 41.00	
501768	Peter Turley	Paint for the play area	£ 60.44	

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

**Any Other Business**

The bin review is underway and Cllrs Turley and Whitehead agreed to check on the bin locations and return the documents to Streetscene at Ashford Borough Council once complete.

The newsletter was approved and will be delivered as soon as possible.

<p>Cllr Turley had reported an incident of fly-tipping to the Borough Council who were dealing with the matter.</p> <p>Caretaker Scheme Meeting: Cllr Turley reported that the JPF Painting had been approved, hedgecutting at the Village Hall was approved, Aldington had requested hiring the Village Caretaker but this had been declined as he would not have time.</p> <p>The Caretakers review will be held in March and it was suggested that the response from Mersham would be positive, hard working and pro-active. The Parish Council appreciates the work undertaken by the Caretaker.</p> <p>Cllr Murphy reported that he had discussed the matter of the Village Caretaker cutting part of Rectory Close and it was agreed, so as to avoid any confusion that the Caretaker would only go up to the first 2 houses and would not touch any trees near Rectory Close – Cllr Murphy will highlight the areas and hand to Cllr Turley for discussion with the Caretaker.</p> <p>Cllr Sawdon reported that there is some litter between Stonegreen Farm and Broadoak. The Litterpicker for Sevington will be asked if he would like some over-time.</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>GM/PT</p> <p>TB</p>
<p><b>The next meeting</b> was confirmed as Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, please.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.30 PM.</p>	