

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in
the Church Room, St John the Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 19th June 2017**

Present	Peter Turley (Chair) Gavin Murphy Henrietta Sawdon Lee Whitehead	Geoffrey Fletcher Jan Oakley-Hills Kenton Stewart
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In attendance: Graham Kingston, Tracey Block (Clerk) and 2 member of the public

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.30pm 2 members of South Willesborough and Newtown Community Group were welcomed.	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hansen, Smithers and Borough Councillor Bartlett.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 22 nd May 2017 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes The vacancy arisen following the resignation of Colin Kibble is to be advertised, if after 10 July 2017 an election has not been requested the Parish Council may co-opt to fill the vacancy. Cllrs Murphy and Oakley-Hills had attended a design review panel meeting on the morning of 15 th June to look at design proposals for the Waterbrook scheme. The proposal showed the lorry park moved and increased in size to 600 spaces, there were plans for 350-400 homes but the planners at the meeting were not happy with the design. The proposed "Draft Master Plan" will be redesigned and will not be submitted as it was at the meeting. Groundwork South East was asked to redesign the plans with sound and light barriers and resubmit with alternative layout. It is expected that the lorry park will generate 2500 lorry movements per day.	
Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. <i>Do you feel that the Parish Council's opinion is taken notice of with regard to planning applications?</i> Cllr Turley responded: Yes on large scale applications and industrial applications but not so much on small scale applications. Cllr Fletcher responded: Most decisions are based on planning law. Successes had by Mersham and Sevington Parish Council have been had by informal discussions and suggested parameters. As can be seen with the gap between Ashford and Mersham, there is a desire for fields surrounding the village to be kept as field in perpetuity but it is important to understand the restrictions the Borough Council are under and where possible work together. <i>Do you have any additional powers like making decisions on small scale applications?</i> The Parish Council is a consultee to all applications and has no additional powers. <i>Do you think you are being listened to as far as the Barrey Road Junction is concerned?</i> Something will happen there, it was decided at a recent meeting but Highways England work at a very slow pace.	
Report from Borough Councillor Cllr Bartlett had not sent a report.	
Report from Community Warden The Community Warden reported that Lady Brabourne had passed away. Her funeral will take place next Tuesday in London. She will be interred at Mersham Church on Wednesday. Graham has been approached to assist with the traffic. He has considered parking at Cherry Glebe or by the barn next to the Church, the owner has agreed to this. The Community Warden is unaware of the burglaries locally but the Sports Club Store has been broken in to	

recently.

The Community Warden congratulated the Fete Committee for a successful event.

PCSO Brad Hobbs has moved on to the Town Centre under a secondment so the PCSO is now Julia Ghost.

The new Sevington Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is up and running.

The Country Eye App is available from the App Store for free across all platforms and is useful for reporting.

Local Plan Update

Cllrs Turley, Murphy and Fletcher attended a meeting with Dan Carter and Carly Pettit. There is a strong push from the Government for Ashford Borough Council to find sites to build approximately 1000 additional houses in next 5 years, bringing total to circa 16,000 homes by 2030. Ashford Borough Council are looking at alternative sites to fill the gap, therefore, the rural sites that have been highlighted have been recommended and the plan will be out for consultation between July and August for 6 weeks.

The existing site is S35 at the Village Hall and that will still go ahead, the new site is S59 which will have up to 15 dwellings next to Rectory Close. The Local Plan will have a gap between villages and Ashford as shown on the plan.

Shadoxhurst Parish Council has drafted a letter to the Secretary of State and is asking Parish Councils to support this. All were in favour but the Clerk will circulate again for the Parish Councillors to peruse.

As far as the application for Rectory Close is concerned, although the residents do not want this application it is thought it best to push for the dwellings to be in keeping with what is there at present. Cllr Turley is to send out the policy outlines and a response from the Parish Council will then be discussed and decided upon at the July meeting, if S.106 monies are available this should be used to improve the JPF. It would be best to establish the wording to the benefit of the parish.

A new policy to cover Separation of Settlements is being added with a map indicating that Mersham could have an allocated green corridor in the future. The Parish Council wants the published plan to include an allocated green corridor for Mersham not simply noting some future potential. This would reflect the position already referenced in the Parish Plan which talks of the "Mersham Wall."

Planning Matters:

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

Reference: [17/00811/AS](#)

Address: Glebe House, The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6ND

Proposal: Replacement of one softwood, single glazed, chord and weighted sliding sash window that is beyond practical repair.

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Reference: [17/00704/AS](#)

Address: Phase 1, Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent

Proposal: Variation of condition 9 of application 15/00948/AS to include roller brake tester as part of operations on-site

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Reference: [11/00473/AS](#)

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

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 15 & 23 in relation to "The Village Centre Phase"

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Reference: [17/00856/AS](#)

Address: Barnfield, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HR

Proposal: Erection of a first floor side extension

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application but respectfully requests that the Borough Council takes into consideration any comments raised by the neighbours.

Reference: 17/00863/AS

Address: 82 Church Road, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0LF

Proposal: Erection of a two storey rear extension with first floor windows at side elevations

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application but respectfully requests that the Borough Council takes into consideration any comments raised by the neighbours.

Reference: 17/00860/AS and 17/00860/AS

Address: 1 Bower Cottages, The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NG

Proposal: Placement of a conservation style roof light. The proposal also involves the addition of two car parking bays to the rear of the dwelling.

The Parish Council strongly supports this application but has concerns regarding the visibility splay.

The Clerk will ask for additional responses to the application for 14/00490 as this application was only received today.

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: £31979.76

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
501794	T Saint	Litter Pickers Salary – June (Sevington)	£ 116.13	
501795	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – June (Mersham)	£ 93.60	
501796	HMRC	Tax paid on Salaries	£ 32.80	
501797	T Block	Clerks Salary – June	£ 401.52	

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

It was agreed that Cllrs Turley and Murphy should be added as cheque signatories.

Any Other Business

A letter had been received regarding the river warden scheme, it was agreed that a poster will be put up.

Thanks were expressed from the Fete Committee for the insurance for the day. The event was successful and very well supported, the school were involved this year and the event raised £5300.

The new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Sevington is now up and running but 4 new signs are required, the Council is happy to pay for this.

The Sevington Sizzle is to take place on 19th August, insurance will be provided through the Parish Council Insurance.

The beacon meeting for Sevington was very useful, it should be permitted development and ABC is being very helpful, a traditional beacon is desired. The play area has been given £140,000 for a revamp of the area.

There has been some discussion about applicants being declined from the housing list for Quarry View. The Clerk is to contact Alison Thompson from English Rural Housing requesting:

A schedule of events so we know when we will be involved in the system

<p>The Parish Council be made aware of the filtering process The Parish Council to be told who has applied and the status of each application. There is concern about aggressive filtering being applied without any involvement of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Having heard that Lady Brabourne passed away, the Chairman wrote a letter to the family but there has been no response with regard to flowers/donation. As the Parish Council would like to recognise her standing within the community it was thought a village sign would be a suitable tribute. A letter is to be sent to the family ensuring this would be acceptable at the next meeting.</p> <p>The bench at the Royal oak is to be installed.</p> <p>A letter has been received from the carer of Ian King regarding the bin that has been removed from the Village Hall. Cllr Fletcher offered to ask The Farriers Arms if they would be prepared to allow Ian to put his waste following litter collection in their bin. If this is acceptable, the Clerk will respond to Care Tech.</p>	
<p>The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 17th July 2017, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 7th July, please.</p>	All
<p>There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.30 PM.</p>	