

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in
the Church Room, St John the Baptist Church, Mersham on Monday, 22nd May 2017**

Present	Peter Turley (Chair)	Geoffrey Fletcher
	Rob Hansen	Gavin Murphy
	Jan Oakley-Hills	Henrietta Sawdon
	Mick Smithers	Kenton Stewart

In attendance: Tracey Block (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Kibble, Whitehead and Borough Councillor Bartlett. Apologies were also received from Graham Kingston.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 10 th April 2017 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered by items on the agenda.	
Election of the Chairman and any Vice-Chairman for the Council year 2017-2018 Cllr Fletcher read his annual report to the Council for the benefit of anyone who may have missed it last week at the Annual parish Meeting. Cllr Fletcher asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chairman to the Parish Council. Cllr Fletcher proposed that Cllr Turley be elected as Chairman, Cllr Hansen seconded this, and all were in favour. Cllr Turley was elected as Chairman. Cllr Turley proposed that Cllr Murphy be elected as Vice-Chairman, Cllr Smithers seconded this, and all were in favour. Cllr Murphy was elected as Vice-Chairman.	
Completion of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form by the Chairman. Cllr Turley completed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to the position of Chairman. Cllr Turley expressed gratitude to Cllr Fletcher	
Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. The member of public had no questions or comments at this time.	
Report from Borough Councillor Cllr Bartlett had sent a copy of his report ahead of the meeting. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEALD EAST UPDATE MAY 2017 – MERSHAM & SEVINGTON</u></p> Local Plan Ashford Borough Council will release the next draft of the land allocation for housing in the Borough in early June 2017. Land owners have asked for an additional allocation in Finberry including an extension to the land currently used as a lorry park in Waterbrook. The lorry park will be relocated nearer the railhead. Residents are asked to review these plans very carefully as this represents an ideal opportunity to comment of the proposals ahead of the submission of a formal planning application. It is expected that at least one site in the village will be brought forward in the plan but likely to be only 15 houses. The ABC meeting to discuss this is expected to be on 15 th June 2017.	

Importantly site WE15 is not proposed for inclusion

M20 J10A

The next session with the Planning Inspector is on Wednesday. I, and others, will attend and argue for greater protection for the village by creating of a buffer zone between Blind Lane and Highfield Lane. Plans are now well advanced to block off Highfield Lane to avoid rat-running through the village.

A group of businesses and residents has been formed to progress Barrey Road junction improvements and a survey has been carried out by KCC to assess the impact of moving the bollards from Sevington Lane / Church Road.

Finberry

After the 301st occupation at Finberry, ABC can serve notice on the owner requiring Finberry to be connected to the northern link road before 400 dwellings at Finberry can be occupied. The northern link road will enable the two developments to be connected by a short bus ride, walk, cycle.

After the 401st occupation, ABC can serve notice on the owner requiring Finberry to be connected to the southern link road before 500 dwellings at Finberry can be occupied.

There are around 250 occupations at Finberry so we are getting closer to these triggers.

Environmental Concerns

The Environment Agency is responsible for ground water pollution/soil contamination. Fires and fly tipping are the responsibility of ABC, contact them on epcomplaints@ashford.gov.uk or via the Report It link on the ABC website if there are environmental concerns.

School Foundation Trust

Mersham school is planning to become a foundation trust long with other local rural schools with the aim to (i) develop outstanding teaching, (ii) ensure teaching involves the wider community and (iii) harness the benefits of working with a wider group. The start date is expected to be 1 August 2017. KCC are supportive.

General Election

The hustings event for the General Election is on 31st May @7pm hosted by St Marys The Virgin in Ashford

Paul Bartlett
Weald East Ward

Report from Community Warden

The Community Warden was not at the meeting.

Planning Matters:

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

Reference: **17/00580/AS**

Address: Bois Croft, Kingsford Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6PE

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension, front porch and erection of a detached garage with side facing dormer at first floor level and attic store.

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: **17/00736/AS**

Address: Agricultural Building at, Red Barn Farm, Laws Lane, Mersham, Kent

Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building and land within its curtilage to a dwelling house and associated operational development

The Parish Council raises no objection to this application

Financial Matters**To approve the following financial documents:****a. To approve the following financial documents:****Internal Audit Annual Review – to receive the report from the Internal Auditor.**

The Internal Annual Review has been undertaken and a copy of the report from the internal Auditor was circulated. There are no matters arising from this report.

b. To note/authorise the following:

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £25,308.80

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
501784	T Saint	Litter Pickers Salary – May (Sevington)	£ 116.13	
501785	I King	Litter Pickers Salary – May (Mersham)	£ 93.60	
501786	HMRC	Tax paid on Salaries	£ 44.80	
501787	T Block	Clerks Salary – May	£ 462.40	
501788	ACRK	Annual Membership	£ 50.00	
501789	J P Smallwood	Internal Audit	£ 60.00	
501790	KCPFA	Annual Membership	£ 10.00	
501791	Getmapping	Annual Membership 2016-17	£ 33.60	
501792	T Block	Litter picking tool for T Saint	£ 12.99	
501793	Came and Co	Insurance	£ 493.79	

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

c. Request from Sub-committee for expenditure for Sevington Sizzle and also for beacon

The Parish Council received a request from the residents of Sevington for financial support towards a fund-raising community event known as the Sevington Sizzle. The Parish Council agreed to support this event up to the value of £250 and also to insure the event as necessary.

The Parish Council supports the beacon in principle but suggests that the Sevington North residents put together a proposal for the beacon before it is approved officially as they may need to seek funding elsewhere.

To review Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and the Risk Assessment, and confirm arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks

The Parish Council considered the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Risk Assessment and agreed that there were no changes to be made at present.

Any Other Business

There have been further reports of problems with rubbish being left at the Village Hall following any functions held. A neighbour of the Village Hall has expressed a wish to be involved with that committee and has offered to work with the Village Hall committee to providing solutions to the problem.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Chairman of the Village Hall and suggest that Cllr Hansen and Turley meet with him to discuss any way that the Parish Council can help with overcoming the problem.

There is a problem with cars parking on the pavements near The Farrier's Arms. It was agreed that signs would be produced asking people not to park on the pavements as it is forcing prams and the disabled in to the road. Landowners in the area are to be asked if a sign might be placed on their fence politely requesting

considerate parking. The property opposite the stores is in a poor state of repair with the garden overgrown etc. The Clerk was asked to write to The Hon Michael-John Knatchbull regarding this matter.	
The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 19 th June 2017, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 9 th June, please. Cllr Smithers sent apologies for absence in advance.	All
There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.30 PM.	