

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council**  
**Meeting held in on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

<b>Present</b>	Gavin Murphy (Chair)	Geoffrey Fletcher
	Rob Hansen	Kenton Stewart
	Peter Turley	Lee Whitehead

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

To be actioned by

<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies had been received from: Councillors Ken Botfield, Jan Oakley Hills and Henrietta Sawdon	
<b>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda</b> There were no declarations of interest to be made.	
<b>Minutes</b> of the Meeting on 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 were approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> <i>Millennium Green Path – signage, road tape and path destruction</i> Cllr Turley had contacted the land owner who has confirmed ownership of this piece of land and has give permission for the works to be undertaken. Cllr Stewart will undertake the work.	KS
The Clerk has obtained prices for 2 signs, one saying, “footpath to the Village” and the other saying, “footpath to the A20.” They will cost £26 + VAT each. It was agreed to go ahead and order the signs.	TB
<i>Island on A20 for bus access</i> The Clerk had received a response from Kent Highways who have said they won’t consider this as there is no crash data to suggest it is necessary.	
<i>Vacancy</i> The advertisement for the vacancy is being advertised. A copy of the vacancy advert will be placed in the noticeboard, pubs and on Facebook.	
<b>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item.</b> There was no comment from the public.	
<b>Report from Borough Councillor</b>  <b>FOOTPATHS</b> Kent County Council is consulting on their draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan which outlines our objectives for Kent’s Public Rights of Way network and wider public access for the next 10 years.  This consultation closes on 12 September 2018. Visit <a href="http://www.kent.gov.uk/rightsofwayimprovementplan">www.kent.gov.uk/rightsofwayimprovementplan</a> to find out more and take part.	
<b>LOCAL PLAN</b> The Council has received draft views from the Planning Inspector who is reviewing Ashford’s Local Plan for “soundness”. I am very pleased that no plans were put forward to build between Stour Park and Blind Lane so, at least until 2030, there is no reason to think that any building will take place there.  The Inspector has questioned the number of houses proposed for the site next to Old Rectory Close. He has not ruled out the idea of development at that site but has emphasised the number and size of the trees.  There were no comments on the Village Hall site, so that can proceed.	

These are not his final views but there is nothing overly worrying in his draft report.

**BUSES**

Following the recent changes to Stagecoach timetables, KCC has launched "The Big Conversation" to understand what communities want from public transport services and how they could be better organised to meet that need. This could potentially improve rural access and deliver this at a lower cost. It may replace the conventional subsidised bus services and, in its place, provide greater access for residents. This could include a taxi-bus style service which links rural communities to main-line commercial bus routes or community-led transport services. Consultation runs until 7th August 2018 on line at [www.kent.gov.uk/bigconversation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/bigconversation).

**COMMUNITY CENTRE AT FINBERRY**

There is an emerging plan for a community centre at Finberry. Cllr Bartlett suggested that the Parish Council try and meet with the planners in the Autumn to discuss and perhaps see if S106 monies from the building works at Bridgefield, Waterbrook and the extension to Finberry. If all of the monies were collaborated then something quite spectacular could be achieved.

The Clerk is to ask Cultural Services for a date of when they might present their ideas to the Parish Council and prior to that date the Parish Council will undertake a questionnaire via handout to the residents of Finberry in order to obtain a list of their desires to use when entering in to discussion with the Borough Council. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the Clerk at Kingsnorth to find out what sort of questions they asked at the time of their consultation.

**LORRY PARK**

Cllr Bartlett explained that the lorry park consultation ends this week and suggested that the Parish Council responds to say that the right place for the lorry park would be at J11.

2 houses have received letters wanting to undertake a site survey. The Parish Council will write to say that these 2 properties are wholly inappropriate as they are building sites.

TB

TB

TB

TB

**Report from PCSO**

No report had been received this month.

**Planning Matters:**

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

<a href="#">18/00914/AS</a>	<b>Orchard Lodge, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NS</b>	<b>Single storey rear extension; conversion of garage to habitable accommodation</b>
The Parish Council raised no objections but ask that the Planning Officer takes into account any comments raised by the neighbours		
<a href="#">16/01722/CONA/AS</a>	<b>Land between Hinxhill Road and, Hythe Road, Willesborough, Kent</b>	<b>Discharge of conditions 21 and 24</b>
The Parish Council raised no objections		
<a href="#">18/00976/AS</a>	<b>Bower Farm, Bower Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NW</b>	<b>Demolition of redundant agricultural buildings and erection of 5 dwellings together with all associated infrastructure.</b>
The Parish Council is interested to read that discussions took place with Ashford Borough Council. The Parish Council queries this and wonders why it was not involved in these discussions? The is outside the village envelope and is creep. No contribution toward the infrastructure of the village		

means that, again, this is unsustainable. The objections remain the same as before.

#### Financial Matters

a. To note/authorise the following:

i. To note the Parish Council's Financial position

*The Parish Council bank balance as at 30/06/2018 was £28,972.14.*

ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501871	Mr I King – Mersham litterpicker	£ 96.30
501872	Mr Thomas Saint – Sevington Litterpicker	£ 116.13
501873	HMRC	£ 18.80
501874	Mrs T Block – Clerks salary	£ 444.83
501875	Mr I King – Mersham litterpicker	£ 96.30
501876	Mr Thomas Saint – Sevington Litterpicker	£ 116.13
501877	Mrs T Block – Clerks salary	£ 501.47

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

The beacon has been purchased for Sevington at £954.00.

Costs for a new noticeboard were discussed, Cllr Whitehead is to discuss this at the Sevington meeting.

#### To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment

There were no changes to be made to the Risk Assessment.

#### Any Other Business

Cllr Stewart asked what can be done about the speeding in Kingsford Street that is now happening. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact KCC and ask about the process of installing traffic calming measures and the cost of such measures.

TB

Cllr Hansen asked for approval to light the beacon on the Millennium Green on 16<sup>th</sup> August for a private 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. As long as a risk assessment is drawn up to be compliant with the insurance requirements, no objections.

RH

The Clerk was asked to send an up to date list of Councillors to The Villager.

TB

#### Date of the next meeting:

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm**