

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council

Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026 in the Church Room at St John the Baptist Church.

Present: Melanie Wells (Chair) Peter Hawkins
Gill McBarnet Stewart Ross
Kenton Stewart

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Pearson, these apologies were accepted.

To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.

Cllr Wells noted a personal interest in the Inland Border facility as a family member works on the site and a personal interest in the Village Hall.

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 18th May 2026.

Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 18th May 2026 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.

To discuss matters arising from previous minutes that are not covered by the agenda.

There were no matters arising to discuss.

To receive reports from the Borough Councillor.

A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website:

<http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/>

The JTB (Joint Transportation Board) have said that the Flood Street bridge is still scheduled for 2026, there is no start date yet.

The new schedule for the Local Plan has been published. The next consultation will be in Q4 of 2026. Site specific consultation will be Q2 of 2027 with final confirmation in Q1 of 2028.

The minister will make his statement on Local Government Reorganisation in the next 4 weeks. There has been a lot of discussion regarding a Neighbourhood Forum. The Neighbourhood Forum will have Parish Councils, Unitary Authority representation and any relevant stakeholder, this will allow more local representation.

What is happening with lorry parking on the roundabout? The Borough Council are awaiting being given powers to enforce this if given the power by National Highways/DfT. All lorries parked there are being logged to obtain additional powers from DfT. Currently National Highways are responsible for enforcing this. It is noted that when a lorry has to leave their trailer at the IBF, the cab and driver is sent off-site, this is why there are so many cabs and drivers parked up around J10/J10a. There are no welfare facilities inside the IBF and it is expected that they will go to the Lorry Park but they don't.

It was noted that the Minister dealing with LGR is Steve Reed.

Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. This section will include an update from the Ramblers Association.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

To receive any updates on the following:

Highways and Transport matters (to include the Highways Improvement Plan).

The Clerk had circulated the speed data for Mersham. The traffic report highlights that there is good compliance across the village. There is a damaged sign in The Street, the Clerk will report it to KHS.

Village Amenities and infrastructure (to include The Village Hall).

Cllr Wells had circulated a report prior to the meeting.

The Cut and Cover remains unresolved, HS1 are not keen to take this forward.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed to put this on the back-burner.

Environment and Sustainability (to include the green buffer zone in High Field).

No update at this time.

RESOLVED: The High Field is to be removed from the agenda.			
Financial matters:			
a. To approve the following financial documents:			
To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 31st May 2026.			
The PC noted the £44,741.14 held in the bank account as at 31 st May 2026.			
b. To authorise any payments.			
	Mercury Windows	2391.13	
	JRB Enterprise	70.26	
c. To agree the S106 purchases of 2 benches (Millennium Green and JPF) and some goal posts.			
The PC agreed to the S106 expenditure as applied for in 2025.			
Community Engagement.			
Nothing to update.			
IBF Update following meeting with DfT planning team.			
Cllr Wells reported on the recent IBF meetings she had attended.			
Cllr Wells and Cllr Bartlett had taken a walk along Blind Lane to look at the missing hedges, this will be investigated further.			
Housing and Development, to include any planning applications.			
No update.			
Local Government Reorganisation.			
No update.			
Succession Planning.			
No update at this time.			
RESOLVED: To remove this item from the agenda.			
Any Other Business (for information purposes only):			
KHS have marked up along the road, the Clerk will ask ABC to mark the double yellow lines.			
Mersham Sports Club had a meeting and all is well, the Club is very busy.			
Cllr McBarnett commented about the water supply issues recently. There was a discussion about the lack of infrastructure in place.			
Cllr Hawkins managed to get the trees cut outside Glebe House.			
Cllr Hawkins also asked that the Caretaker oil the bus shelter on the A20.			
Mowers have been stolen at the Church, these were worth £3,000. There was a discussion regarding the purchase of buying new mowers.			
Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.			
Monday 20 th July 2026		Monday 14 th September 2026	
Monday 19 th October 2026		Monday 16 th November 2026	
Monday 18 th January 2027		Monday 15 th February 2027	
Monday 15 th March 2027		Monday 19 th April 2027	
Monday 17 th May 2027			
Resolution to exclude the public			
Resolved: that under section 100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business.			
To consider notices of interest in becoming a Councillor to fill the vacancy.			
The Parish Council had a closed vote and an applicant was chosen.			